



# MAN DIED AFTER REFERRAL DELAY

Report by Richard Guttridge

**A FATHER died at 27 after his cancer went untreated for a year when doctors 'failed to refer him to specialists'.**

Daniel Hemmings, from Halesowen, first went to hospital in 2010 after finding a lump on his lower back.

He had an MRI scan at Worcestershire Royal Hospital but no follow-up appointment was made so he assumed everything was fine. But a year later, the security worker went back to his GP as he was still concerned about the lump.

He was referred to Russells Hall Hospital where, following an MRI and ultrasound scan in September 2011, he was told it was deemed to be a benign tumour and it was removed in an operation six months later.

Further tests revealed the tumour was in fact malignant and a referral was made to the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham.

According to his family, Wolves fan Mr Hemmings was not informed of the discovery due to a mix-up relating to his contact details and was only seen by the hospital in July 2012 when he received his diagnosis. Treatment was then started, but he

passed away in March 2014.

## Family

Mr Hemmings instructed lawyers from Irwin Mitchell to look into his treatment, a cause which has been continued by his family.

The firm alleges failings by both Dudley Group NHS Trust and Worcestershire Acute Hospital NHS Trust, which run the hospitals. The firm also said that Russells Hall chiefs had accepted the father should have been referred to a specialist sarcoma team following scans in September 2011. Both trusts deny liability.

Mr Hemmings' partner Fallon Waldron, 28, mother of their six-year-old son Harry, said: "I'm just devastated that Harry will never have a lasting relationship with his father, although he often talks about Daddy being in the stars. Daniel's mum, Gill, is devastated.

"If any good can come from the nightmare we have faced, it is that lessons can be learned which will ensure that the treatment and care received by others can be improved. This should simply not happen again."

Jenna Harris, a medical negligence lawyer at Irwin Mitchell, said: "While both trusts deny liability on the whole, the Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust has now admitted that Daniel should have been referred to a specialist cancer team more than a year earlier than he was."

No one at either hospital trust was available to comment.

## VICTORIAN THEME AT HADEN HILL HOUSE FUN DAY



Visitor services assistant Jack Whitehead gets in the mood for summer fun at Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath

STAFF and volunteers at Haden Hill House Museum in Cradley Heath are getting ready for a summer season of events and activities starting with a Victorian community event and family fun day on Sunday.

From noon to 4pm visitors are invited to an afternoon of fun for all the family with a

Victorian theme and a 'steampunk' twist, said Jack Whitehead, visitor services assistant.

There will also be live music out in the park with Eureka Jazz performing, as well as children's entertainment including magic shows, craft activities and trails. Visitors can also look out for a Steampunk penny farthing

and its rider, side shows or play croquet on the lawn.

"We will also be setting up a Victorian photo area where people can get dressed up and take their own photos of themselves as Victorians," said Jack. The event is free but there may be a charge for some activities.

## EVENT

### Pride and nostalgia at Armed Forces Day

HUNDREDS of visitors will flock to Himley Hall and Park on Sunday for the 'best yet' Armed Forces Day, from 11am to 5pm.

The annual event promises to be bigger and better than ever, featuring a Spitfire flypast by the RAF Battle of Britain Flight Memorial team at 11.45am and the HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge presentation to veterans in the afternoon.

In the main arena, there will be marching bands, a gun run drill and a sing-along of nostalgic 1940s songs led by Dudley singing duo The Land Girls.

## TRAFFIC

### Disruption due as roadworks start

DRIVERS in Cradley Heath will face almost a month of disruption due to roadworks which started this week. Forge Lane will have 24 hour signals in place until July 11.

Councillor Julie Webb said: "Forge Lane is a very busy road and it's a main route to get to Merry Hill.

Lower High Street and Chester Road will also have signals whilst Western Power Distribution work from July 3 to July 11. The road recently became a red route to tackle nuisance parking.

## AUCTION

### Former pub to go under the hammer

A PUB building in Cradley Heath will be offered for sale at an auction in Birmingham next month.

The Five Ways, on Heath High Street, has been converted into retail space and flats.

The former pub is due to go under the hammer at an SDL Bigwood auction at Villa Park on Thursday, July 6, and carries a guide price of between £250,000 and £275,000.

The pub was once a busy Cradley Heath venue but was left empty before being taken over by developers.

## INSIDE

### CARING COUPLE WIN HONOURS



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# Police initiative on domestic abuse

A PILOT scheme aimed at supporting children living with domestic abuse has been launched in the Black Country.

The project – part of a national campaign entitled Operation Encompass – sees police working closely with schools. Officers can relay details of overnight incidents to teachers before school gates open the next morning.

It means teachers are better pre-

pared to offer emotional and psychological support for pupils who may have witnessed domestic abuse at home just hours earlier.

Dudley's Chief Inspector Sally Holmes said: "It's really important this kind of information is fed into schools quickly as it means teachers can make decisions in the knowledge that a child may be particularly vulnerable at that time."

"It could be that a child who's witnessed a fight between their parents turns up late for school the next day, forgets their homework, isn't dressed in the correct uniform or is displaying challenging behaviour."

"Teachers might be at a loss to understand their behaviour. This initiative seeks to provide teachers with the context of that behaviour thereby enabling them to provide the most

informed and supportive response to the child's needs.

"I'm confident this move will get early support and intervention to vulnerable children when they need it most."

In the last 12 months – from April 30, 2016 to May 29 this year – there were 1,823 domestic abuse reports at addresses in Dudley where children live

# Dangerous driver ran red lights in police chase

A RECKLESS teenager from Quarry Bank led police on a car chase in Dudley, driving on the wrong side of the road and running red lights.

Liam Pether, who was seen speeding in a VW Polo, did not have a driving licence or insurance, a judge heard.

Wolverhampton Crown Court heard how the 18-year-old caught the attention of officers in Peartree Lane, Netherton, driving at speed at 1.45am. The officers followed him.

During the chase, in April, he drove on the opposite side of the road – forcing a taxi driver to swerve to avoid him – and also went the wrong way around a roundabout and ignored red lights.

Pether then abandoned the car and took off on foot but was caught when he was tracked by a police helicopter using body heat detection cameras.

Judge Amjad Nawaz said it was only due to 'good fortune' that Pether avoided injuring himself or other road users.

He was sentenced to 16 months in a young offenders institution by the judge last week.

Judge Nawaz told Pether: "You showed a complete disregard for anybody on the road."

Pether, of Coppice Lane, Quarry Bank, was also sentenced for burglary at a house in March, while the occupants were away on holiday. During that raid, computers worth around £1,500 had been stolen.

Pether pleaded guilty to dangerous driving and burglary.

# Great and good are awarded in honours

Report by Simon Stone

**UNSUNG heroes from the Black Country and Birmingham were among the great and the good recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.**

Volunteers and charity workers feature alongside more famous recipients, including Bearwood-raised Julie Walters. The Mamma Mia! and Harry Potter actress was made a Dame.

A British Empire Medal (BEM) went to 80-year-old Marianne Diller for services to the community in Halesowen. Mrs Diller has been chair of the Friends of Leasowes Park group since its inception in 1999.

She said: "It means a great deal to me and it was a lovely surprise. I feel very honoured to have been given it and happy to accept it on behalf of all the people who do voluntary work throughout Dudley and particularly for people who help and volunteer with the Friends of Leasowes. The park is so beautiful and so important for the area – it's well worth fighting its cause."

## Birthday

There was an extra special birthday gift for Jenny Jones, founder and manager of Inspired Foundations, who has been given an MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire) for services to adoption.

Jenny, from Dudley, was named in the honours list on the day she celebrated her 37th birthday. She said: "I feel so honoured someone has taken the time to sit down and fill out an application form to put me forward."

Tipton couple Martin and Barbara Hale who have cared for more than 100 foster children over two decades, were awarded MBEs. The couple have cared for 126 children since signing up as foster parents back in 1996. Mrs Hale, 64, said they were 'overjoyed' to be recognised for their efforts.

Janice Boswell, 74, of Belbroughton, has been named as an MBE for voluntary service and the community in Bromsgrove. Linda Susan Clark from Walsall was handed the same



Walsall artist Idris Khan, gets an OBE



Paul Sabapathy, given an RVO



Smethwick's Dame Julie Walters



Martin and Barbara Hale, of Tipton



Chief Constable Jane Sawyers



Jenny Jones, who received an MBE

honour for voluntary service. Artist Idris Khan has been awarded an OBE for his services to art. Mr Khan, from Walsall, did his foundation degree at Walsall College but now lives and works in London. He was back in his home town earlier this year when his exhibition, A World Within, was on display at the New Art Gallery.

West Midlands' High Sheriff Keith Bradshaw, a founding patron of Wolverhampton's Way Youth Zone, has been given an OBE for services to charity and young people. Kathleen Rees, former chief executive officer of Wolverhampton refuge The Haven, has been awarded an MBE for ser-

vices to the protection of women and child victims of domestic violence.

Former West Midlands Lord Lieutenant Paul Sabapathy was given a Royal Victorian Order, while Jaswindar Singh Wouhra, director and company secretary of Sandwell-based East End Foods, was given an OBE for services to business and international trade. Dr Kevin Rowland, who works at Sandwell Council, was honoured with an MBE for services to special educational needs and disabilities.

Two West Midlands Police officers were recognised, temporary Assistant Chief Constable Alex Murray and PC

# Flats on way to land near station

A TOTAL of 10 flats are set to be built on empty scrubland in Old Hill.

The homes are earmarked for a site on Beauty Bank Road, near to Old Hill railway station.

The site is currently vacant, except for a dense covering of shrubs and trees.

Six two-bedroom and four one-bedroom apartments are proposed to be built over two floors on the site.

Lordswood Construction have submitted the application to build the homes and have stated that the proposal 'would bring many benefits to the site and drastically improve the appearance of the currently vacant and redundant plot'.

Planning bosses will be discussing the application this summer.

# Dragonboats' den will be at Brindleyplace

BUSINESSES are getting ready to take to the canals of Birmingham in the biggest Brindleyplace Dragonboat Race to date, on Saturday at 11am. Now in its 18th year, the annual fundraiser will be aiming to raise more than £100,000 for Cure Leukaemia.

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# Roads will be closed for Black Country Run

TEMPORARY road closures will be put in place for the sixth annual Black Country Run, taking place on Sunday, July 2, with thousands expected to take part.

Roads that will be closed from 6am until 1pm are Pool Road, Great Cornbow, Rumbow, Birmingham Street, Birmingham Road and Hagley Road (section between Queensway roundabout and Hagley Street only). Other roads to be closed from 9am until 11am are Dogkennel Lane, Summer Hill (between Hagley Road and Queensway), Summer Hill (between Dogkennel Lane and Powell Street), Waxland Road and Broadway Avenue.

Alternative routes will for the town centre closures will be New Road, High Street, Queensway and Bromsgrove Street.

Motorists are advised to use Blackberry Lane, Hagley Road, Huntlands Road, Blakedown Road, Pershore Road and vice-versa. Access to frontages will be maintained.

The run will offer a variety of competitive and non-competitive categories for runners of different abilities to take part in. It has been organised by the Rotary Club of Halesowen and Rowley Regis.

Organiser and Rotarian Alan Bowler said: "We want people to come along and enjoy themselves, get fit and raise money for charity. Last year we had around 1,200 people take part so hopefully we can get the same number again."

Visit [www.theblackcountryrun.com](http://www.theblackcountryrun.com)

## Teenager in court after stabbing

A TEENAGER from Dudley has been charged with attempted murder following a stabbing in Worcester.

Ethan Bell-Milne, aged 19, of Himley Street, appeared in court on Friday charged with attempted murder, wounding with intent and possession of an offensive weapon. It follows the stabbing in Worcester on Sunday.

Bell-Milne appeared during a brief hearing at Worcester Magistrates Court.

He is due to appear next at Worcester Crown Court on July 10 and was remanded in custody.

A 33-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man, both from Worcester, who were arrested on suspicion of aiding and abetting attempted murder have been released without charge.

## Scouts planning a 50 year reunion

THIRD Sedgley (St Andrew's) Scout group is celebrating its 50th anniversary with a reunion on November 4 at St Andrew's Church, Bilston Street, Sedgley. Email [50years@3rdsedgley@gmail.com](mailto:50years@3rdsedgley@gmail.com) or call 01902 885542.

# Couple celebrate 72 years of marriage



Charles and Ellen Harris met 80 years ago

THEY met aged just 10 and 12, as youngsters on the country's waterways. Today, more than 80 years on and having gone through the upheaval of war, Tipton couple Charles and Ellen Harris are marking their 72nd wedding anniversary.

The pair met on the canals in Gloucester when Mrs Harris' mother moved to the city. Despite losing touch and Mr Harris serving in the Second World War, the pair found each other again years later – and tied the knot in the month of VE Day in June 1945.

The past two years has seen a flurry

of celebrations for the couple. First they marked their platinum anniversary. Then last year, Mr Harris was awarded France's highest military honour, the Legion D'Honneur, in recognition of the part he played in the D-Day landings. Mr Harris, now 94, landed on Juno Beach in June 1944 before fighting his way to Le Havre with the Royal Engineers.

After being hit by shrapnel, he was treated in England and discharged in February 1945.

Two months later he reunited with Mrs Harris, who is now 92. He said:

"I saw her, and she was beautiful. I thought, I've done alright here."

They married at Birmingham Register Office and moved to the Black Country.

Mr Harris worked on the railways and the couple lived in Bilston, moving to Tipton in the 1960s, and today live in Elizabeth Walk, close to their daughter Ann Davies. They also have two sons, five grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Mr Harris said: "I wouldn't change my marriage for the world. We're both still very happy."

# £200m Metro link on track for green light

THE £200 MILLION Midland Metro extension to Brierley Hill is on the verge of getting the green light after final plans were unveiled to Transport Secretary Chris Grayling.

West Midlands Mayor Andy Street met with Mr Grayling at the Houses of Parliament in London on Monday to secure the multi-million pound funding for the project which has been more than a decade in the making.

It marks a major step forward for the scheme, which will see the tram stop at such popular attractions as Merry Hill shopping centre and Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Mr Street, who presented the Secretary of State with a business plan alongside Transport for West Midlands managing director Laura Shoaf, said: "It is hard to understate just how important this project is to the Black Country."

"The business case shows that for every pound invested in this project, it will return £2.50 for the local economy."

"It will align employment, education, health and tourism along the corridor, stimulating investment in the Black Country and enabling the building of 50,000 homes and bringing 170 hectares of brown-field land.

### Passengers

"It will be important for passengers too. It will more than halve journey times from some of the stops along the route into central Birmingham."

"This is the start of the conversation about how as a region we can look at new ways of working with Government to use new mechanisms of funding and finance to deliver transformational projects like this."

The seven-mile line will run along part of the former South Staffordshire railway from Wednesbury to Brierley Hill town centre with 17 stops, including at the DY5 Enterprise Zone at the Waterfront, Merry Hill shopping centre, Dudley bus station, and Castle Hill for the Black Country Living Museum and Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Construction on the extension is set to start in 2019 with the line opening to passengers in 2023.

Trams will run up to every six minutes during busy periods. Other extensions to Wolverhampton railway station and the planned high-speed 2 station at Curzon Street in Birmingham are also in the pipeline.

The meeting between Mr Street and Mr Grayling was welcomed by both of Dudley's MPs, Dudley North Labour MP Ian Austin and Dudley South Tory MP Mike Wood.



Roaring ahead – an artist's impression of the Midland Metro running past the front of Dudley Zoo

## Driver went wrong way around roundabout

A DRIVER from Cradley Heath collided with a motorcyclist while going the wrong way around a roundabout after failing to stop for police, a judge heard.

Daniel Kennedy, driving a Ford Fiesta, had ignored a request by an officer to stop over suspicion he had been using his mobile phone at the wheel, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told.

The 22-year-old slowed before 'shooting off' at speed through a red traffic light onto Smethwick High Street, narrowly missing a bus, said Mr Philip Brunt, prosecuting.

After the pursuit ended, Kennedy went the wrong way round an island in Church Road where the Fiesta crashed into the motorcyclist and headed on the wrong side of the road into Rose-

field Road. The motorcyclist was carried along on the bonnet until he rolled off but escaped without any broken bones.

Mr Anthony Bell, defending, said the chase had been of 'relatively short duration'.

Kennedy, of Clifton Street, admitted dangerous driving and other motoring offences. He was given bail. The case was adjourned for CCTV evidence.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Leader in 'value for money' pledge

THE new leader of Dudley Council has vowed to 'deliver value for money' for Dudley's council tax payers.

Councillor Patrick Harley said he is working on an action plan looking at delivering services in a different way to 'open up commercial opportunities for the council'.

He said: "Delivering value for money to our residents has to be one of our top priorities and we are confident that through a review of procurement activity we can deliver savings. All councillors will be working to develop our vision for the borough."

## Beach babes are welcome at park

HIMLEY Beach is returning to the Dudley area to bring seaside-style fun for toddlers.

The Under-5s Day in the park grounds of Himley Hall on Friday, June 23, from 10am to 3pm, will also feature baby ballet, a children's maze and fun fair, donkey rides, storytellers, face painting and a mini zoo.

A family ticket is £14 (two adults and two children) or £4 each (£2.50 for under-2s). Parking is free and dogs are not admitted (apart from assistance dogs). For more information call the hall on (01384) 817817.

## Garden opens to help hospice funds

A COUPLE will be opening their garden to the public to raise money for charity on Sunday.

Ron and Anne Kerr are inviting people to look around their garden at 20, Waxland Road, Halesowen on June 25.

Their garden features waterfalls which cascade over rocks down into ponds set within a woodland area.

Money raised from entrance fees and plant sales will be donated to the Mary Stevens Hospice.

## Peak behind scenes at Ashwood nurseries

NURSERY owner and RHS Chelsea gold medalist John Massey is opening his private 'John's Garden' for charity at Ashwood Nurseries on July 2.

It will be open in support of the National Trust's Kinver Edge Centenary Appeal. Volunteers from the Kinver Edge Committee will be in the garden to highlight how the Centenary Appeal will raise funds for the creation of a Centenary Pathway on Kinver Edge.National Trust. It will open from 10am to 4pm, £5 admission.

## Grange Hill House fete

A RESIDENTIAL home in Halesowen is holding its summer fete on Sunday.

Grange Hill House Residential Home at Hunnington, B62 0JJ, holds its annual fete on Sunday, June 25, from 2 to 4pm. There will be raffle, bottle tombola, pony rides, refreshments and live music.

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# 4 Pools to close for essential maintenance

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, June 22, 2017

POOLS at Smethwick Swimming Centre will close next month to allow essential maintenance work to take place.

Sandwell Council is working with Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) to ensure minimal disruption for customers while work is carried out for three weeks from August 28. Additional swimming sessions will be put on at nearby Langley Swimming Centre to accommodate Smethwick pool users while the work is carried out.

Councillor Richard Marshall, Sandwell's cabinet member for leisure, said the essential work was unfortunately unavoidable.

"We take pride in the excellent range of sports facilities across the borough but with such an ageing building it's inevitable that regular work has to be carried out," he said.

"Smethwick Leisure Centre is one of our oldest sports facilities. On this occasion the pools need to close for a few weeks however we will make sure the work is done quickly so our customers can get back to swimming at Smethwick as soon as possible."

Smethwick Leisure Centre's gym, dance studio, fitness classes and sauna steam facilities will remain open as usual while the work is being carried out.

Ash Rai, Chief Executive of SLT added: "We want to make sure there is minimal disruption of services to our customers."

For more information visit Sandwell Leisure Trust's website [www.slt-leisure.co.uk](http://www.slt-leisure.co.uk)

## A Knight out with soul icon Gladys

SOUL singer Gladys Knight has announced a concert in Birmingham next month.

Following on from sell-out shows last year, the Empress Of Sou will play Symphony Hall on Sunday, July 2. The 73-year-old former Motown star, who had hits in the 1960s, '70s and '80s, originally with her backing singers The Pips, will be performing such classics as Midnight Train To Georgia plus tracks from her new album Where My Heart Belongs.



Back, from left, Det Sgt Vicky Lee, Det Supt Angie Whitaker, HR officer Caroline Miller, Ass Ch Con Sarah Boycott, Corinne Brazier and analyst Mandy Tanda. Seated, from left, Ch Supt Sally Bournier, Dep Ch Con Louisa Rolfe, and Ch Insp Yvonne Bruton



The original photograph, believed to hail from 1919, of the first women police officers, although some names are missing, back row, from left, not identified, Lucy Carlton, Catherine Downey, Sarah Hancox and Ellen Vernon. Seated, from left, not identified, Sgt Evelyn Miles, Adelaide Pearce

# Snap back to police past of force's pioneering women

A GROUP of female police officers and staff have brought history to life by recreating an iconic photo taken almost 100 years ago.

The original image – unearthed from the West Midlands Police vaults – is believed to have been taken in 1919 and is the first depicting Birmingham Police's Women's Department. Women officers were first recruited in 1917 – with lock-up matrons Rebecca Lipscombe, who was aged 60 at the time, and 54-year-

old Evelyn Miles being the pioneers – and by 1919 the unit had swelled to 10. As part of the force's centenary celebrations of women in policing, a group of present day officers and staff were photographed in period police costume in the historic clock block beneath Birmingham's Steelhouse Lane police station.

West Midlands Police museum volunteer Corinne Brazier said: "The original photo is really special to me – it shows a group of women who made

history by becoming the first WPCs in the region.

"That achievement can't be overstated. They were the first to step into a male dominated profession, would have had to overcome obstacles and doubters, but made a great contribution and paved the way for thousands more to follow in their footsteps. We thought recreating that iconic picture would be a nice way to celebrate women in policing."

Ms Brazier wore the actual uni-

form used by Ellen Vernon in 1919 and which now hangs in the force's museum.

Other people in the photo donned other period police uniforms and hats to look the part – even though most were originally designed for male officers.

She added: "It wasn't exactly a tailor-made fit...it was quite uncomfortable and rough compared to today's soft, synthetic materials."

"I certainly wouldn't have fancied

working an entire shift wearing that uniform." Fellow museum volunteer Inspector Steve Rice even spent some of his spare time replicating a distinctive, studded chair on which Sgt Evelyn Miles is pictured sitting on in the original photograph. Police historians have used archive files and officer records to identify all but two of the women in the original picture.

The names of the final two mystery women have been found but it is unclear exactly who is who.

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## Call for crossing at £12m casino site

A COMPANY behind plans to move a casino and bingo hall to a Dudley leisure park have been told a new pedestrian crossing is needed as part of the scheme.

Planning officers at Dudley Council say that changes are needed to make the proposed site at Castlegate Park more accessible for pedestrians.

Castle Casino, currently on Castle Hill, will relaunch as Casino 36 on the leisure site, as part of a £12 million investment that was announced in May.

An artist's impression show a two-storey building, which will operate as both a casino and bingo hall on separate floors.

The entertainment complex is expected to open next year but has hit a potential obstacle with highways experts not happy with the current layout around the site. They said there was no footpath near to the casino location and that would likely need to be rectified.

But a casino boss says they would be happy to hold discussions with roads experts about any potential changes to the plans.

Craig Dobson, general manager at Casino 36, said: "It is very early days. There are a few things like pedestrian crossings which I can't see being a problem. I don't think I've done a project where the roads team haven't had something to say."

# Family get refund from council after care dispute

**A TWO-YEAR long row between Dudley Council and a family over the cost of a woman's dementia care has been decided in the relatives' favour by the ombudsman.**

The family had been told by the council to pay 'top-up' fees or the woman, who has not been named, would have to be moved to a cheaper care home.

The authority has now apologised and issued a £4,600 refund to the family after the ombudsman ruled they were treated unfairly.

An investigation found that the family were given 'no alternative but to pay third-party top-up fees' for their mother's care. She moved into a care home in February 2015 after the family initially agreed to pay £408 a week, including the top-up - money relatives can pay if they require more expensive care than a council is offering. The move was arranged by the Dudley and Walsall Mental Health Partnership Trust, on behalf of the council.

### Affordable

Social care experts say families should not be left with the bill just because it is more than a council is willing to pay. Local authorities are expected to offer care homes which are affordable.

In November 2015, the family said they could no

longer afford the £50 weekly fee. The mother's needs were reassessed, but there was no record of any consideration of the affordability of the £50 weekly top-up fee.

Council bosses insisted if they could not afford the top-up, then the vulnerable woman would be moved to a cheaper home. The family took the case to the ombudsman. It concluded the trust, on behalf of the council, 'had not acted in line with statutory guidance' and there was no evidence any alternative placement was made available which would not need a top-up.

Councillor Nicolas Barlow, cabinet member for adult social care, said: "The Local Government Ombudsman has made a number of recommendations, which we accept. We will implement these carefully and have already sincerely apologised to the family involved and organised a refund."

By Richard Guttridge

## Youngsters in movie made at museum



Ben Avery, Cameron Hay (as Duncan) and Ella George at Black Country Living Museum

A FORTHCOMING film about Dudley-born football hero Duncan Edwards will give older generations the chance to reminisce.

But it has also provided a huge opportunity for some of the region's aspiring actors and actresses who were cast when scenes for the short film, set in 1940s Dudley, were shot at the Black Country Living Museum.

The film named The Boy Who Had It All will focus on the Manchester United star's childhood in the town.

Among the young cast members is 11-year-old Ben Avery from Oldbury who plays a childhood friend of Duncan's named Thomas.

Ben, said: "It has been a great experience."

Cast in the role of Molly Leech is 13-year-old Ella George from Burntwood. She said: "My dad plays a lot of football so he told me a bit about England and the Busby Babes."

"My character is very hard. Very much a tomboy."

In the role of Duncan is Cameron Hay, 13, from Bedworth.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### £27m centre is no threat to rail return

A £27.8 million light rail innovation centre, which could create more than 200 jobs, will not prevent nationwide train services running from Dudley in the future, says a planning boss.

UKIP's Councillor Paul Brothwood said he feared that the creation of the centre could hinder Dudley's chances of having improved rail services by using a vital section of track. The centre - given the green light last year - needs more funding but has won support from academics and the council.

Planning chief Councillor Ian Kettle said: "We have also received assurances that the test track will not prevent the provision of future heavy rail passenger services on the line, although Transport for West Midlands have no plans to bring passenger services back to the area in the foreseeable future."

### Movie night in castle courtyard

AN open-air cinema will screen cult horror-comedy movie An American Werewolf In London at Dudley Castle on August 5.

Last year's inaugural Dudley Castle After Dark event was a huge success with more than 600 people attending a screening of The Bride of Frankenstein in the courtyard. Tickets are £10 (£8 concessions) for the 8pm screening, see [www.flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/american-werewolf-in-dudley/](http://www.flatpackfestival.org.uk/event/american-werewolf-in-dudley/)

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IN MY VIEW

with Mark Andrews



# Fire horror shows best and worst

THERE are some things words alone can never convey. Even the harrowing pictures from the Grenfell Tower block fire do not really capture the enormity of what happened. One night people were going about their normal business, maybe preparing for work the following day. Then, little more than an hour later, they died the most awful of deaths.

An advert for a flat on the 18th floor was still on the internet last week, waxing lyrical about the block's recent refurbishment, and portraying it as a stylish, desirable place to live. It said the flat had now been let. I wonder what happened to the poor tenant.

We should remember that such disasters are few and far between, but that will not stop thousands of people who live in similar blocks across the country wondering how safe their homes are. And how many of us will be looking carefully at the fire exits when we take our holidays in multi-storey hotels this year?

The tragedy has also brought out both the best and the worst in humanity. One the one hand we have seen the heroism of the firefighters running into the building, knowing full well that their lives were at risk. And the community, which rallied round so quickly and so generously to help. Not forgetting England footballer Ryan Bertrand, who out of his own pocket has offered to help some of those displaced by the fire.

Then, on the other hand, there is the woman who decided to take a few selfies with the burning building in the background. Perhaps we should cut her a bit of slack, as she doesn't sound the sharpest tool in the box.

What is distasteful, though, is that while the fire crews were searching for bodies, the usual suspects found it impossible to resist scoring a few cheap points.

On the one side, there are the shrill voices scenting blood, seizing the chance to turn it into some sort of class war and pin blame on the beleaguered prime minister. People like spoiled little rich girl Lily Allen, who was making all sorts of outrageous claims while the fire was still burning.

Then, at the other end of the spectrum, there are the mean-spirited racists whose main concern appears to be the nationalities of the victims, and why they had been given council flats.

Certainly, the Grenfell fire raises many extremely uncomfortable questions, not least about the renovation works, the claims by residents about fire safety that were ignored, and why it was deemed more important to spend millions of pounds on cosmetic refurbishment than installing a sprinkler system. A lot of people will have a lot of difficult questions to answer.

But this probing needs to be handled with forensic detail, tact, sensitivity and impartiality.

Something tells me Lily Allen is probably not the best person to do that.

## Voting's over, but not the fall-out as politicians wait



The game's afoot, Watson – as cobwebs unlock a mystery for Peter on holiday



Too soon? Jezza says he's ready for another election, good time to go on your hols...



Not soon enough – Boris's Prime Ministerial ambitions could be just what Labour needs

# Could Bo-Jo hand Jez key to No 10?

BEER, Devon: At 10am yesterday it was too hot to sit on the beach here in Beer. Exactly one week ago, we had to light a coal fire to get our house warm. In weather terms, bizarre is becoming the new normal.

GREAT excitement at our holiday cottage, for we have become a crime scene. Just before we arrived at the cottage someone used a crowbar to break into the utility shed in the back yard. The security bloke from the rental company gave it a thorough going-over. He pointed out, detective-like, that the door lock was full of cobwebs, so obviously no key had been used, and the bolt was in the unlocked position. So we have a would-be burglar using a crowbar to force open a door which was already unlocked. Puzzling, eh?

IN truth, this crime is a mystery only because generations of cop dramas have led us to believe that criminals are brilliant strategists and crimes are complex and meticulously planned. What fiendish conspiracy is afoot here, Watson? The reality? It is that most burglars are not bright. They tend to be village idiots with a headful of dope and a bellyful of booze, too dim even to try the door before using the crowbar. Over to you, Sherlock.

WHEREVER you go in this varied and tribal United Kingdom of ours, some things remain constant. Like the eagerness of the authorities to develop their own variations on the English language. For instance, take this officialdom-cobblers from Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service describing a recent blaze: "Firefighters from Helston, Tolvaddon and Mullion have been dealing with a fully-involved property fire. At the height of the incident it was sectorised into two sectors."

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



The idyll is spoiled only by the constant whining of what sounds like a particularly annoying lawnmower suspended in the heavens. Turns out to be a microlight. One man's amusement is a thousand families' irritation.

AFTER the nightmarish fire in Kensington, the focus of most comment seems to be on how the fire spread up Grenfell Tower, with the new cladding allegedly acting like an external chimney and turning the building into something resembling a blast furnace. But there is another issue which must today be haunting anyone living in any sort of high-rise block, whether fitted with cladding or not. Assuming this fire began in one of the apartments, how could it possibly have escaped from what is essentially a sealed concrete box? The exterior finish of Grenfell Tower may be a key factor in this disaster but was there also an issue right at the heart of the building?

IN these days of computer-generated text and spell-checkers, a reader asks how can it be that a van dealer in Wolverhampton has paid for the following to be professionally painted on the rear of its vehicles: "Take advantage of our price guaranratee."

JEREMY Corbyn insists he's ready to fight another election. He must be the only person in the UK who is.

AND before we start sharpening the pencils for the polling stations yet again, are we even convinced that Corbyn genuinely wants to be

prime minister? He has been the eternal urban revolutionary with a 40-year career of carping and criticising other people's policies from the safety of the backbenches. If he became PM, approaching his 70th year, he'd suddenly be responsible for all sorts of things. I bet he'd run a mile from a career change like that.

LABOUR'S best hope of taking power will come if the Tories are daft enough to elect Boris Johnson as their leader. Corbyn may have a few skeletons in his cupboard but Johnson's is one massive, heaving, bone-packed ossuary.

MEANWHILE, as Downing Street insists the DUP will not demand any special favours for supporting Theresa May's government with a wafer-thin majority, the Department of Transport unveils plans for B2BB, the £48 billion Belfast to Blackpool Bridge.

ACCORDING to something called the British Nutrition Foundation, children are hopelessly confused about where their food comes from. Nearly a third of kids aged between five and seven thought cheese came from a plant and some thought fish fingers were made of chicken. I'm not sure how much this matters. Until I was seven I believed cats were female dogs. Never did me any harm.

I WROTE some days ago about new research showing that being married is good for your health. Yesterday, on the cliff path from Beer to Branscombe, we met a man and his wife. He was wearing yellow shoes and white socks, as though he had a large egg on each foot. I thought spouses were supposed to stop that sort of thing.

## TALKING POINT



# Homing in on many of today's problems

IT'S always difficult, I suppose to create new buildings which bring with them longevity as far as their style is concerned.

We have all heard the raging arguments concerning the Birmingham Library, from a Spyro Gyro accident, to being 'a statement of both civic importance and friendliness'. Or how about the Selfridges store in Brum, Walsall's New Art Gallery, or Wolverhampton's spectacular Wishbone Bridge for the Metro, or the relatively new bus station?

All very worthy and notable out-there designs to create a reaction, good or bad, and everyone is entitled to have their say.

So what about closer to home – literally? New houses, or at least the concept of new houses, seems to derive from a hotch-potch of 1970s boxy minimalism and traditionalist red-brick yearnings for when houses were part of a proper community.

Having a gander around housing estates which seem to be cropping up all over the place, there seems to be no soul any more. Things just appear to be too clever, too sensible and too detached from people actually connecting.

Before the cul-de-sacs there were proper streets with front doors next to each other and people actually chatting to their neighbours.

It still goes on in some parts of our region, I know, amazing, actual conversation. Not being the most outgoing person in the world, it took me nearly 13 years to actually converse with my next-door neighbour in a previous abode. And this seems to be more and more the norm these days.

Meanwhile, everything now seems to be a statement. A statement of standing in society – the big 4x4 car on the drive; a statement of fashion and coolness – the new Minis which seem to be everywhere on our roads. And then comes the houses: steps for no apparent reason; three floors; garages which aren't actually big enough to fit any kind of four-wheeled vehicle inside; and gardens, which these days, if they are big enough to swing an actual cat around, boy, you know you've really made it!

It's no wonder we're a nation of ever-increasing stressed-out individuals, as we all practically live on top of each other, and despise each other into the bargain!

We hear all the older generation's tales of popping round each other's house for a cup of tea and never shutting the front door – well, those days seem long gone, which is a real shame.

So, perhaps it's time to go back to an era when there wasn't so much emphasis placed on square footage (estate agents please note!), and as we enter a period of society's existence when there may be more time available for people to be at home, shouldn't that actually be somewhere we actually enjoy being – not only as individuals, but as communities again?

GRAEME ANDREW

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## Hedgehogs facing a new threat

WE love hedgehogs. Hedgehogs are facing extinction. So why have hedgehog traps been brought into this country from New Zealand?

Hedgehogs are considered vermin in that country because they eat the eggs of ground nesting birds. So does lots of other animals and birds. They have been brought here to kill animals that eat the eggs of pheasants and partridge bred for shooting parties.

I have raised concerns with my MP that these traps are designed to kill hedgehogs and, in his reply, he included a reply from

DEFRA that states that the traps will be laid in such a way that hedgehogs can't get into them. Really! And who is going to officiate over every trap to make sure that hedgehogs cannot obtain entry?

If a hedgehog wants to get anywhere at all, he will get there, they are very determined little animals and that is why he gets himself into so much trouble. We are losing our beloved spiky friend, these traps will be the nail in his coffin.

**JOAN LOCKLEY**  
West Midlands Hedgehog Rescue

## Invest in the future of our youngsters

VERY impressed with incoming Mayor Andy Street and his early focus on doing something about homelessness.

It's shocking to see homelessness growing in the city centre and even in smaller towns like Stourbridge.

Support for under-25s has been cut back too far, and those without the help of family can find themselves in trouble very quickly.

It's all very well having nice shiny new buildings in the city, but if the streets are full of the homeless young, it makes the West Midlands a much less attractive place to live and invest into.

The young are our future and we should invest in them.

**IAN FLYNN**  
Amblecote

## Number plate camera will cause trouble

ALAS Robert Hill has no appreciation of the distress the introduction of number plate cameras to Asda Sedgley will bring.

Community organisations around the car park have grown in response to the needs of the community and rely upon unrestricted parking there for their service users. They have very little parking of their own. Most users will visit the store as part of their visit, as they did when it was owned by Co-op and, before that, Safeway.

Regular community activities, many involving the elderly and disabled, last more than two hours and fines for overstaying will hit the careless and unwary. Users have no redress in store, leading to angry confrontations and abuse for Asda staff.

I'm glad Mr Hill has 100 percent confidence in the technology, alas the internet is full of stories where cameras have malfunctioned, particularly when users have used the car park twice in a day.

**MARTIN JONES**  
Sedgley

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### POST

Dudley Chronicle,  
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## Will highway art be left to rust?

I SENT an email to Dudley Council informing and asking when maintenance is going to be carried out on the artwork on the traffic islands on Dudley Southern Bypass (now Duncan Edwards Way). My email, in particular, was referring to the traffic island at Cinder Bank. There is the workman with his shovel and at the rear, there are the three large triangular steels which are now asking for paint, and a tripod with a flame on the top.

A spokesman stated that

the problem with these artworks is the local authority gets the funding to erect them but there is no budget to maintain any of them.

These artworks have been up 20 years and never had any maintenance. So what's going to happen? Is the council going to let them rust? It doesn't show visitors to the area a very good impression. This may also apply to the island where the cannons are. What are Dudley Council going to do?

**BOB WHITEHOUSE**  
Kingswinford

## Drug users on the streets

THE reaction of readers to my recent letter suggesting that the unnecessarily large number of homeless on our streets is, in many cases, a question of choice, clearly indicates that your correspondents are unaware of the results of a Radio 4 survey among the 'homeless' of Nottingham, which showed that in excess of 90 per cent of people living on the streets were regularly taking drugs.

This reinforces my assertion that they are in receipt of benefits and they choose to spend it on consuming this muck rather than on a night in a hostel.

**B WILLIAMS**  
Wordsley

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**FIVE MINUTES FROM MERRY HILL**



# Emergency summit on tower block safety after inferno

**COUNCIL bosses held an emergency meeting with West Midlands Fire Service chiefs to discuss safety in high-rise blocks following the Grenfell Tower blaze in London, in which more than 70 have died.**

The service hosted representatives from all seven of the local authorities in the West Midlands at its Birmingham headquarters to review and discuss the current arrangements in response to the disaster.

## Arrests made in £440m fraud probe

THREE people from the West Midlands have been arrested as part of a major investigation by UK and French authorities into a suspected £440 million alcohol fraud and money-laundering racket.

More than 100 HMRC officers, together with officials from the National Customs Judicial Service and police, raided homes and businesses across the UK.

Addresses in Wolverhampton and Stourbridge were among those involved. A 44-year-old man and 38-year-old woman from Wolverhampton were arrested, along with a 38-year-old man from Stourbridge.

Searches were also carried out in Birmingham, London and Surrey where three other men, aged 42, 41 and 33, were arrested. The raids were carried out on Thursday.

Computers, business records and cash were seized during the operation aimed at smashing suspected large-scale fraud and money laundering.

Chief fire officer Phil Loach said: "We invited representatives from all the councils across the West Midlands to take stock of where we are in our arrangements, to ensure we are able to respond to any immediate outcomes from the Grenfell Tower incident.

"If there are specific lessons to come out of this incident, as we consistently and constantly do with other incidents, we will take them on board and train for them to make sure we maintain that status of being the best that we can be.

### Confident

"We have a really effective emergency response which we hope never to use but we are confident our ability to fight the fires is amongst the best in the country."

Mr Loach said there were nearly 1,000 residential buildings in the West Midlands of four storeys or more.

"It is vitally important that anyone who lives or works in a high-rise building makes sure they know their building's specific escape plan, which should be clearly and regularly communicated by the owner or landlord."

Dudley Council chief executive Sarah Norman said: "We are taking urgent steps to check safety systems and the advice we give Dudley tenants."

The last major high-rise blaze in the region was at Merry Hill Court, Smethwick, in 1990.

## Delight as stolen pug Herbie is found



Herbie is back with his owners now after being stolen while they were on holiday

A PEDIGREE pug stolen from a house in Coven has been reunited with his owners in Hagley.

Herbie was stolen at the end of May from the home of the parents of Rachael's owner, Rachael Wootton, when she and her husband Alex were on holiday in Marbella.

Burglars broke a heavily padlocked gate to the side of Rachael's parents' house near Wolverhampton before smashing through a pane of glass in the conservatory, and then totally removed the back kitchen window to get access.

The family feared they would never see the prized pooch again but then Herbie was handed into a vet's in Somerset and has since been reunited with Rachael and Alex.

A post of Facebook says: "It's true Herbie is home!!! He's been checked over by the vet and he is okay. Thank you so much to each and everyone of you who have taken the time to support us and help Herbie find his way home.

"We could not have done it without you. We're off for Herbie cuddles! Big hugs to you all."

Herbie's return comes as it was revealed that around found five dogs are being stolen every day across the UK.

Research by pet insurance at Direct Line showed a 19 per cent rise of the number of dogs stolen in 2016 compared to 2014, when 1,774 dogs were reported stolen compared with 1,491. The Staffordshire Bull Terrier was the most stolen breed, with 634 thefts - making up 42 per cent of the total.

## End in sight for eyesore office block

AN APPLICATION to demolish an eyesore Dudley office block is expected within weeks, which would then kick-start ambitious plans for a multi-million retail development.

The proposals for the Cavendish House site have been hit by delays, but developers now appear to be ready to go ahead with the scheme.

Dudley Council leader Patrick Harley revealed that he had held discussions with the building's owners Avenbury and that a planning application was expected in July.

The derelict building, which has stood empty for years on one of the major gateways into Dudley, overlooks the Duncan Edwards Way by-pass.

A masterplan for the site would see the office block bulldozed and replaced by a major shopping development.

Councillor Harley said: "The developers are due to put a planning application in in July. Once it gets in we can get cracking with getting rid of Cavendish House and redeveloping a whole section of the town.

"The town is desperate for a real injection to breathe fresh life into it."

He added: "We will be looking to support it. Regeneration is what the town is crying out for.

"We have been waiting for Cavendish House to come down for many years."

## More than 500 stalls at biggest toy fair

BRITAIN'S biggest toy fair will arrive in Birmingham this summer.

The Toy Collectors fair is taking place at the NEC on August 20.

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# Pride of Black Country's vintage vehicles



Enthusiast Jim Thomas from Dudley with his 1925 Bean car on show at the Black Country Living Museum

**HUNDREDS** of enthusiasts motored to one of the region's top venues for a display of vintage vehicles.

The Black Country Living Museum, in Tipton Road, Dudley hosted the Festival of Black Country Vehicles.

The event, which is in its 15th year, celebrated the Black Country's history as a major centre for vehicle manufacturing – and has become one of the most popular days in the museum's calendar.

Visitors had the chance to chat to the vehicles' owners, and also saw the museum's bus, trolley bus and tram collection in action. All vehicles on show were built in the Black Country – with some more than 100 years old.

Regional classic car brands at the festival included Austin, Bean, Clyno, Jensen, Lomax, Quantum, Rickman, Star, Sunbeam, Swallow, Turner and Westfield.

## Warehouse

Meanwhile, classic car enthusiasts will be in their element next month when Stourbridge pre-war car club is

holding its 50th anniversary open day.

The free event on July 15 is from 11am to 4.30pm at the Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge. The display will feature historic cars dating from the 1920s to the 1970s.

Music, food and drink stalls will be available throughout the day as visitors take a look at some of the vehicles on offer.

The car club began in 1967 and now boasts more than 100 members. The club meets every Thursday from 8pm at The Kinver Community Centre, Edward Marsh Centre, based on Legion Drive, High Street, Kinver.

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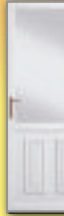
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## Two helpers celebrate long service at shop

Halesowen Chronicle Thursday, June 22, 2017

TWO volunteers have been celebrated a quarter of a century of service at a charity shop.

On May 11 1992, the Mary Stevens Hospice Group opened its very first charity shop in Stourbridge's Victoria Passage, the first of a further 22 that would be opened across the West Midlands.

Throughout that time, Audrey Smith and Sybil Taylor have been ever-present volunteers in the Victoria Passage shop, and have been celebrated for their service over the last quarter of a century.

The anniversary was marked with a party in the shop and free hot drinks and cake were on offer to the local community, as a thank you for the support the outlet has received over the past two and a half decades.

Tributes were also paid at length to Sybil and Audrey, who received flowers and had the honour of cutting the specially-made cake on the day.

Speaking about why the shop had been able to thrive over the past 25 years, Sybil said: "It's a social point. We have regulars here who've been seeing and serving for years."

"My friend Beryl from school still pops in because she knows I'll be here for a chat, and that's more than 50 years after we met."

Audrey added: "Guy, the shop manager, makes a good cup of tea as well."

## Church launching 24 hour prayer marathon

CHURCH members are being invited to a 24-hour prayer event. People are asked to sign up to fill one-hour slots, or more, so that St John's Church in Leys Road, Brierley Hill, can pray around the clock from 8am on Thursday, June 29, until 8am the following day. Prayer stations, music and art materials will be provided.

# College turnaround is an 'outstanding' success story

## Museum to expand with £10m funding



An artist's impression showing how the Tipton Road museum's 1940s to 1960s town will look

HISTORIC buildings will be brought back to life after the Black Country Living Museum was awarded almost £10 million to go ahead with a major new project.

The funding has been awarded by Heritage Lottery and will see the attraction expanded by a third with a new 1940 to '60s town.

Around 100 jobs are anticipated to be created at the museum in Dudley

and more than 400 during construction. Iconic buildings will also be moved to the site on Tipton Road, including West Bromwich Gas Showroom and Dudley's Woodside Library.

Some will be moved brick-by-brick, while others, including Wolverhampton's Elephant and Castle pub, which was controversially demolished around the turn of the century, and Lye's Marsh and Baxter's Butchers,

will be recreated by referring to old pictures and other archived material.

The ambitious scheme will create a picture of the post-war region, telling the story of the Black Country up to the closure of the Baggeridge Coal Mine in 1968. A new visitor centre and car park and learning centre also form part of the plans. The upgrade is expected to attract an extra half a million visitors each year.

DUDLEY College of Technology has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted – putting it among the very best in the country.

The grading represents a turnaround in fortunes at Dudley College, a decade on from being rated inadequate.

It is the first time it has been given the highest rating by the education watchdog, with the college scoring top marks in seven out of eight categories.

Principal Lowell Williams, who has overseen the rise in standards, said the recognition marked the completion of a 'difficult journey'.

Mr Williams took over in 2008 and brought in wholesale changes. The college has embarked on a huge modernising drive with the expansion of campuses and the building of Dudley Sixth on Ednam Road.

In 2012 it completed and opened the first two phases of the Dudley Learning Quarter and in April 2015 opened Dudley Advance I, specialist centre for Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering Technology. Work has been taking place on Advance II.

Ofsted praised 'outstanding teaching' and a curriculum that 'anticipates regional and national need, leading to highly appropriate training pathways'.

Mr Williams said: "When I joined the college there was a frustrating sense that Dudley's best days were gone, that nothing new and aspirational could ever be achieved in Dudley and that the educational attainment of Dudley young people and adults would always lag behind their counterparts elsewhere in the country."

"But there's absolutely nothing wrong with the ability of young people and adults in the Black Country. Quite the opposite, in fact. The staff and students of Dudley College of Technology have proved that with the right support and challenge they can be the best in the country."

## Overweight van stopped in M5 check

A VAN stopped on a motorway in the West Midlands was more than 50 per cent overweight, according to police officers.

The white van was pulled over at Junction 3 (Halesowen) of the M5 over the weekend.

The vehicle, which police said was travelling north on the motorway, is was packed full with cases of cans and bottles.

Central Motorway Policing Group posted about the incident on the social network.

CMPG wrote: "Vehicle stopped M5 n/b found to be a massive 58.45 per cent overweight."

Drivers caught with their vehicle overweight by more than 30 per cent will be summonsed to court and potentially fined.

An overweight vehicle can reduce handling and braking capabilities, the force said.

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# Hospice leads way helping patients record life stories

A NEW charity has taken its first steps towards supporting families in hospices across the UK by collecting and recording memories.

This follows a successful training scheme at the Mary Stevens Hospice in Stourbridge.

The Hospice Biographers train journalists and hospice staff to capture on audio the life stories of patients who are battling serious illness, to be given to family members and friends.

Those stories will be held confidentially by the charity for 10 years, at which point the family will be able to have the recording deleted or it will become part of a public library.

The library will then be used to research whether the telling of personal stories can have a positive impact on patients who are battling

life-limiting illnesses or facing a terminal diagnosis.

The first journalists to complete that course graduated the programme at Mary Stevens Hospice on May 31. The hospice will continue to act as the 'Midlands Hub' for the project, providing a central point of contact for the six hospices involved in the pilot scheme.

Barbara Altounyan, founder of The Hospice Biographers, said: "Stourbridge is leading the way. Our long term ambition is to train hospice biographers for 200 hospices across the UK. We want them to be as common in hospices as therapists are today. Families will be able to hear their loved one voices and precious memories for generations to come."

To find out more visit [www.thehospicebiographers.com](http://www.thehospicebiographers.com)



The first Hospice Biographers with charity founder Barbara Altounyan and hospice chief Stevan Jackson

# Public will get say on homes and jobs

A REVIEW of the blueprint for development in the Black Country over the next 20 years is set to get under way – and the public will be given the chance to have their say.

The Black Country Core Strategy outlines how many houses need to be built and how many extra jobs are needed for a growing population. It also looks at where homes and businesses should be located.

The four Black Country councils – Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton – want to launch a public consultation on a review of the document to take it up to 2036.

If agreed at council meetings, the consultation is expected to start in July and last for 10 weeks.

The consultation will ask questions about where new homes are needed across the Black Country. It will also seek feedback on where new development should be located.

Information from the consultation will be collated and used to produce a review document, which will again go out to consultation next summer.

# Family's tributes to tragic biker, 40

TRIBUTES have been paid to a 'bright and lively' biker who died after being involved in a crash with two cars.

Gary Davies, from Halesowen, was involved in a collision with a Ford Focus and a Fiat Punto while riding his Kawasaki ZZR motorbike near Belbroughton.

The 40-year-old pronounced dead at the scene following the crash, which happened on Hackmans Gate Lane at 2.40pm on Sunday, June 11.

Mr Davies' partner, Claire, and parents, Gillian and Eddie, have paid an emotional tribute to the popular electrical engineer who had 'a real zest for life'.

"Gary was a very popular person, with a great sense of humour and was a bright and lively character," the family said in a statement.

"He had a real zest for life and loved nothing more than his beloved motorcycle, finding endless joy in both riding and working on it.

Gary enjoyed partaking in track days and Moto Gymkhana, a time trial sport in which riders compete to manoeuvre through a course, restricted by traffic cones, in the shortest possible time."

## Musical

Mr Davies, who traded under Reliance Electrical, was also a trained compulsory basic training (CBT) examiner, but biking wasn't his only hobby.

"As well as motorcycles, Gary had a musical flair and played the drums, guitar and mouth organ," said the family.

"He could turn his hand to making anything that sprung to mind and was also a keen target shooter.

"His sense of humour will



Gary Davies – family tribute

be missed and he will truly be a sad loss to us all."

The family also thanked those who had offered words and messages of support, particularly from Mr Davies' many friends on Facebook.

One tribute on social media described Mr Davis as 'so positive, funny and kind'.

"I shall miss this man," Stephen Lucas wrote. "Riding with the angels."

A widely shared post on the Fairfield Inn's Facebook page also paid tribute to a 'great friend and customer', alongside several photos of a smiling Mr Davies.

West Mercia Police continues to investigate the incident and is encouraging anyone with information to call 101 quoting incident 406S of June 11.

# Safari park wins awards

STAFF at West Midland Safari Park, between Kidderminster and Bewdley, are celebrating after winning two national travel awards.

Theatractor's first award was scooped at the British Coach Awards where the park saw off competition to win the best Coach Friendly Visitor Attraction.

It was awarded to the park for demonstrating their commitment to welcoming and developing relationships with coach firms, their drivers and coach groups.

For the third year in a row, the second award came from the Group Travel Awards for the Best Animal or Sea Life Attraction for Groups.

The park has seen growth in investment, with new exhibits such as Land of the Living Dinosaurs and an education facility, Safari Academy.

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# Patient in £9,000 payout after front tooth ordeal

**A WOMAN has been awarded £9,000 compensation after dental treatment left her needing surgery.**

Emma Hill, aged 42, says she has been told she will lose her front tooth in the future as a result of the work at a Stourbridge dentist.

The charity shop worker underwent root canal treatment for swelling around her front tooth. The work was carried out by her dentist Dr Ollie Smart at South Road Dental Practice. He has since left the practice.

## Jeff finishes epic walk for cancer charity

TELEVISION presenter Jeff Stelling has completed the epic walking challenge which saw him visit Kidderminster Harriers' Aggborough stadium.

Stelling teamed up with Prostate Cancer UK for the 400-mile tour.

The final stretch saw him head towards Newcastle United's St James' Park, a fortnight after setting off from Exeter City's St James Park.

Stelling is on course to hit his £500,000 target once funds are combined after the event.

He walked 15 marathons in 15 days from the home of the Grecians to the home of the Magpies – and he was joined by around 650 walkers during his unforgettable amble.

The star stopped at Kidderminster Harriers' Aggborough stadium, in Wyre Forest, before setting off for Shrewsbury Town in Shropshire on the fourth day of his walk.

To support Stelling or find out more about his epic challenge visit prostate canceruk.org/jeffsmarch

After being left in pain she said she was told she needed to have surgery in hospital to have the root removed and sealed with a filling.

Mrs Hill, of Netherton, said: "I was rather confused because Dr Smart was supposed to have fixed the problem with my tooth. The surgical procedure wasn't a pleasant experience to say the least. I was left with stitches in my mouth. It was painful and distressing."

Mrs Hill said she had been told the tooth had been so badly damaged it will need to be extracted.

She said: "This is the most upsetting part of the ordeal. Nobody wants to lose their front tooth. It already feels loose so I doubt it will be long until it needs to be extracted. It will then need to be replaced with an implant which will mean yet more trips to the dentist."

She decided to take action and contacted the Dental Law Partnership, which claimed Dr Smart had failed to use reasonable skill and care when undertaking the procedure.

The case was settled out of court when the dentist agreed to pay £9,000. The dentist did not admit liability.

Dr Smart said: "It is unfortunate that the treatment provided on this occasion did not go as well as we had both hoped. I am limited in what I can say because of patient confidentiality. I am pleased the matter has been brought to a satisfactory conclusion."

## Dancers soldier on for festival showcase



**Dancer Harriet Ellis gets a lift from soldiers during her Army training on manoeuvres in Scotland**

A DANCER got into camouflage gear and had a taste of life in the Army ahead of a festival performance.

Harriet Ellis, of Stourbridge, is to take to the stage in 5 Soldiers at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe and has taken part in a range of combat exercises with the Army to prepare for the role. The dance production is set to take to the stage in August.

Joining the exercise allowed Harriet to get experience of life in the Army, the training and the camaraderie.

She said: "Women are taking an ev-

er-more prominent role in the Army and on the frontline and I think it's important to look at the new opportunities that are opening up, and the challenges that can bring."

"It has really helped me understand what our soldiers go through. We've learned something about what it's like to be in a forward base in a war zone, to be part of an ambush, to encounter a roadside bomb, and what happens when they come under artillery fire."

Harriet is the sole female member in the quintet cast of 5 Soldiers and

her fellow dancers joined her on three days of combat exercises with the Army, deep in the Scottish countryside. They discovered what it was like to be out on patrol and also saw a live fire exercise involving machine guns and grenades.

Captain Edward Mitchell, who helped look after the dancers, said: "This was an ideal opportunity for the dancers to see what soldiering is about." Following its Fringe run, the show will embark on a tour including Birmingham Rep.

## Liquor store is closed due to police concern

A SHOP in Kingswinford has been closed due to police concerns over anti-social behaviour.

A closure order was brought against Liquor World, on Bromley Lane, also known as the Convenience Store, after a request by police.

Dudley Council licensing chiefs are now due to decide whether the shop should stay shut.

It is an unusual step for police to use powers to bring about the immediate closure of a business.

Police said the closure order was brought under the Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014.

### Conditions

Managers were due to appear before a Dudley Council licensing panel this week.

Police are expected to call for the licence to be revoked but the council could decide to let the shop re-open but with strict conditions on its licence.

It will be the second time in three years the shop has had its licence reviewed.

Liquor World was subject to a previous inspection in June 2014 when licensing committee members ruled the designated supervisor at the time should be removed and conditions added to the licence.

## Police witness plea after a cyclist dies

POLICE have launched an appeal for witnesses after a fatal crash involving a cyclist near Halesowen.

West Mercia Police want people to come forward after the incident which led to the cyclist's death.

The accident occurred at around 7.40am on Thursday on the Bromsgrove Road in Rossley.

Officers believe a Corsa travelling from Poplar Lane and a Ford Transit were involved in the crash. Call 101.

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How the crash was reported in the Express & Star on May 18, 1945, with a horrific picture showing the extent of the damage



A Lancaster bomber, which was a regular sight in the skies during the war, although the tragic accident, which killed seven people, came just nine days after VE Day



Gordon Rabbetts, Vincent Southworth, John Sills, Reginald Smith, Bernard Hall and Victor Meade were all killed in the crash



The pub, which is now called The Lancaster, when it was The Albion, situated in Lichfield Road, Wednesfield

# Pub's tribute to airmen killed in wartime crash

A PUB in Wolverhampton is to change its name in tribute to seven airmen killed in a horror air crash in the city – just days after the end of the Second World War was declared.

The Albion pub in Wednesfield has been closed for a complete re-vamp and reopened on Wednesday under its new name, The Lancaster, recalling the crash of a bomber plane nearby which saw all on board perish.

The Lancaster had been on a routine flight when it began losing altitude and crashed on Lichfield Road on May 17, 1945. The tragic accident, just nine days after VE Day, left a five-foot crater with wreckage spread over two miles. The airmen on board, none of whom were over 24, are thought to be the only servicemen killed in Wolverhampton during the Second World War. After the crash, the wreckage

## MEMORY LANE

By Marion Brennan

and remains of the crew, all from East Kirkby, Lincolnshire, were bulldozed into the crater and a local minister performed a simple funeral ceremony.

Some regulars have questioned the name change on Facebook. One said: "It will always be known as the Albion. Even years ago when it changed to the Harvester, people still called it the Albion."

### Remembrance

On the 70th anniversary of the crash two years ago, the Wednesfield Historical Society and the town's St Thomas's Church organised a remembrance service. A campaign was also launched to secure funding for a permanent memorial at the site

The names of the airmen that died were Ronnie O'Donnell, John Sills, Bernard Hall, Victor Meade, Gordon Rabbetts, Reginald Smith and Vincent

Southworth. The bomber came from Lincolnshire on a routine training flight before it crashed to the ground. The Express & Star covered the crash with eyewitness accounts of the crash and a picture showing firefighters spraying water into the smouldering crater.

In the article, Express & Star driver Joe Castree said: "It passed right over me and there seemed to be two explosions in the air before the crash."

"I ran to the spot immediately but it was impossible for me to do anything as there was just a lot of wreckage scattered over a wide area and no signs of any members of the crew."

"Bullets were exploding and flares were going off."

Another eye witness believed the crew may have sacrificed their lives to avoid killing children playing on the King George playing field, where the plane could have landed.

As the Lancaster went down four bricklayers on the road some distance away were blown to the ground and had to be treated for shock.



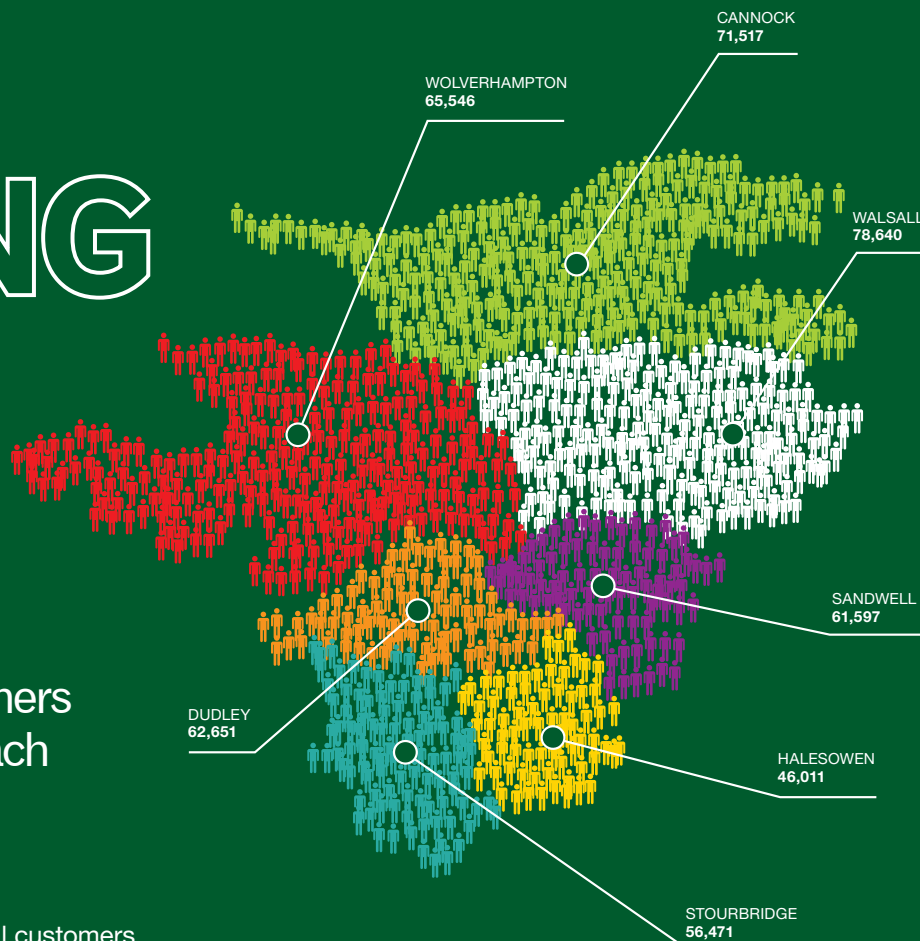
Ronald O'Donnell, one of the crew members killed – none of whom were aged older than 24

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# Comedy tonight? It aint half at rep



Garry Cooper-Stanton as Fancourt Babberley with Francis Quinn as Charley, left, and George Clayton as Jack, right

OLDBURY Rep's final production of this season is the evergreen comedy, 'Charley's Aunt' by Brandon

Thomas. Jack Chesney loves Kitty Verdun and Charley loves Miss Amy Spettigue. The visit of Charley's wealthy aunt from Brazil, "where the nuts come from", gives the pair an excuse to invite the ladies over for tea to meet her!

Cancelling her visit at the last minute, the millionaire aunt sends the boys into cataclysmic confusion. What do they do now? The problem is solved by drafting their feckless Oxford undergrad pal, Fancourt Babberley, into

a black satin skirt, bloomers and wig and posing as the widowed millionaires.

Things become even more complicated when Jack's father and Amy's uncle arrive. Both men take a keen interest in Charley's Aunt and when the real aunt turns up, classic comic confusion ensues. Comical farce at it's very best.

The production runs from Saturday July 8 to 15 and performances start at 7.30pm. Tickets can be obtained by phone or in person from the box office on Monday evenings from 7.30pm, and on the Friday prior to opening night

from 7.30pm, and every night of the production from 7.00pm.

Tickets are priced at £10 with the usual concessions at £9 with a special price on Monday and Tuesday evenings of £8 (no concessions) box office can be contacted on 0121 552 2761. And you can now book online at [www.oldburyrep.org](http://www.oldburyrep.org)

The Rep's summer screenings continue on June 30 with the BAFTA Award winning film Lion and on July 28 Natalie Portman stars as Jackie Kennedy in the acclaimed biopic Jackie. All tickets are still just £4 and the performance starts at 7.30pm

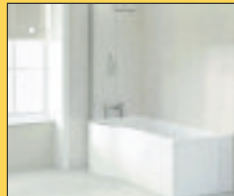


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# Celebrating 50 years of Gardeners' World on TV

IT started as a seed of an idea when colour TV was coming in and gardening was considered a fantastic subject for it - and has gone on to produce vast harvests of information for gardeners worldwide.

Now, Gardeners' World is celebrating its 50th year. It held anniversary events at BBC Gardeners' World Live at Birmingham's NEC over four days last weekend, and there's a special feature in this month's edition of Gardeners' World magazine - but the celebrations will no doubt continue long after that.

The BBC Two show has grown to become a mainstay of British gardening TV, capturing on camera how trends have changed over the years, from formal bedding of the 1960s and 1970s, to naturalistic planting and wildlife-friendly spaces of the 1980s, outdoor rooms and decking of the 1990s, robotic mowers and "grow your own" resurgence of the 2000s, to the climate change-conscious, wildlife-friendly plantings for smaller spaces in recent years.

"Over the last 50 years, Gardeners' World has reflected the changes in society at large - it's gone from being presented by Percy Thrower (pictured) in a shirt and tie, to Monty Don's much more relaxed attire. It's changed the advice it gives in line with current thinking and research - no more chemical solutions for example, now it's all about working with nature rather than against it," says Paolo Pronto, executive producer of the show.

"The production process has changed radically. It used to be shot by a huge team with large TV trucks full of heavy machinery, who stopped for a proper sit-down lunch hosted by Percy. Nowadays, a small team using the very latest technology deliver stunning photography with an array of high-tech equipment that would have left the original production team baffled.

"But despite the changes in technology, the clothes and attitude to chemicals, at its core Gardeners' World still does what it set out to do 50 years ago and that is to celebrate gardens and plants, and to inspire people to go outside, get in the garden and have a go."

**GARDENERS' WORLD: A POTTED HISTORY**  
1968-76: Percy Thrower: Organised bedding schemes were his forte.

1976-79: Arthur Billitt: Large vegetable beds represented Arthur's practical style.

1979-1996: Geoff Hamilton: The first presenter to begin to garden organically. He shared trial and error methods with viewers.

1996-2002: Alan Titchmarsh: Alan showed the worth of ornamental grasses and a rich colour palette of perennials.

2003-2008: Monty Don: He brought informal planting and a relaxed style for long borders to the fore.

2008-10: Toby Buckland: Toby transformed an uninspiring field into a garden buzzing with life. But novelty ideas such as 30-minute makeovers didn't inspire

viewers. This new style was axed at the end of 2010.

2011-present: Monty returned after recovering from a stroke and the programme moved to his own garden at Longmeadow, Herefordshire.

## PRESENTERS' REFLECTIONS

**:: Monty Don**  
On Geoff Hamilton: "Geoff Hamilton was my first recollection of Gardeners' World. Geoff was an inspirational figure for me. I liked the way he was organic, the fact he took issue over the limestone pavements and peat debate. As a public figure, I think he was very brave. Everything you do is scrutinised and so to stand up and say something like he did was very brave. I think he saw organics as a personal journey and he was evangelical about it... and for quite a long time, he'd give you both options."

On Barnsdale Gardens, created by Geoff Hamilton in Rutland for Gardeners' World: "If you look at a plan of Barnsdale it looks all wrong. No garden designer would ever have designed that. But when you go there, it feels right. And I think that's because it's all about Geoff Hamilton. The man absolutely enthuses the place and actually all great gardens, all good gardens, come down to individuals."

## :: Alan Titchmarsh

On Percy Thrower: "Percy was the first identifiable icon and it is impossible to say, to convey, how big he was."

On taking over from Geoff Hamilton: "I remember the letter that came in: 'Dear Mr Titchmarsh, when you took over from Geoff Hamilton my heart sank... I've been watching you these past few months... you'll do.' The nicest thing anybody's ever written to me."



The six-acre garden at Pant Hall near Presteigne will open to visitors on Saturday

# Take in pretty six-acre garden for a good cause

A PICTURESQUE six-acre garden will open to visitors on one of the longest days of the year on Saturday (June 24).

Pant Hall near Presteigne is the latest in the open gardens programme that will open to raise money for St Michael's Hospice in Hereford.

The land is the work of Malcolm Temple and Karen Roberts and it will open between 2pm and 5pm.

"It's a lot of work but the garden's looking really good," said Malcolm.

"It's daunting and exciting at the same time."

Half an acre at Pant Hall is devoted to lavender borders, a rose bank, terraced lawns and shrubberies leading down to a bog garden.

Over a brook, visitors will find a birch

grove, wave garden and orchard terraces to enjoy.

Beyond this is a new three-acre woodland, planted between avenues and a central meadow.

"Opening your garden is a huge challenge," added Malcolm.

"But it helps focus your energies to getting things done. It is really enjoyable to be part of and to allow people to see your garden."

There is limited parking so car sharing is encouraged.

Admission is £4 for adults and free for children under 12.

Assistance dogs only.

For further details, including directions to the venue, visit [www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk](http://www.st-michaels-hospice.org.uk)

# Not too late to plant your summer pots – just yet



A pot-bound plant is something gardeners should seek to avoid



Feed should be added to the compost to keep it going through summer and beyond



Line pots with grit and polystyrene to help drainage



Small trailing plants can be added to fill in the edges of the pot



Make sure newly-planted pots are well watered

## Report by Hannah Stephenson

**SO, summer's here and you've left it late to get your summer patio plants in their pots, ready to add some colour to your outdoor space.**

Don't despair, because leaving it late can have its advantages. You're likely to get bedding bargains in garden centres keen to sell off their summer annuals and you'll still be able to enjoy pots of colour throughout July and August and even into September if you look after them and choose wisely.

Late-summer blooms such as dahlias and lilies can help make summer containers last

into autumn, so consider putting a few of them in to prolong your season.

Here's our step-by-step guide to planting up some summer colour for your patio, even if it's late in the season...

### CHECK ANNUALS AREN'T POT-BOUND

When choosing bedding, try to avoid plants which have loads of roots sticking out of the bottom of the pot, which indicate the plants have been in there for far too long and can make it tricky to remove the plants from their containers.

### MAKE SURE PLANTS HAVE GOOD DRAINAGE

Line the base of pots with drainage holes with crocks (bits of broken pot) or some other material, which will allow free drainage because most patio plants won't enjoy sitting in water and wet roots. I usually use the polystyrene I bought the bedding plants

in because it's lighter than crocks if you are going to be moving the pots around. Then fill the pot with multi-purpose compost to around three-quarters full, adding water-retaining crystals to the mix.

### STRUCTURE YOUR DISPLAY

Put your main plant in first, which should be taller than the trailers which go around it and will spill over the side of the pot. The tall plant will form the framework for the rest of the display. Firm it in with more compost. Fill around the edges with smaller plants such as trailing lobelia, bacopa and verbenas, adding compost as you go. Often people will use a miniature conifer as the tall aspect of the display, but you can just as easily use upright geraniums or osteospermums in smaller containers or more exotic plants like spiky cordylines or exotic-looking cannas if you have bigger pots.

### FEED YOUR PLANTS

Add granular feed to the compost mix which should keep it going throughout summer and beyond - there are many formulas on the market, which help reduce the need for feeding the plant with liquid feed throughout the summer. Many composts also contain water-retaining and feeding elements.

### KEEP THEM WELL WATERED

Water newly-planted plants in well. If it's dry, you will need to water the plants every day and in prolonged dry spells, twice a day. Do it early morning or at dusk to reduce evaporation. Remember that the smaller the pot you use, the more watering the plants will need because there will be limited compost to retain moisture. Go for the largest pots you have.

You're not too late for colour - but don't delay any longer.



# Stay independent with help to get your home adapted

## Commercial feature

### Dudley Council is offering help to Dudley borough residents who need to adapt their homes to better meet their needs.

Anyone who is struggling with daily life in their home can ask for help. If a member of the household of any age is having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, even getting into the home, help is on offer to adapt the property to better meet these needs.

Dudley Home Improvement Service, part of Dudley Council, offers the adaptations package. Grants are available to pay for adaptations, along with an adaptations package of advice and practical support. This consists of an expert recommendation, support to design and build the adaptation from technical officers and council approved builders. All work is overseen by the council, so there is no hassle and no stress to people.

Home adaptations for independence are available to people who own their own homes or are private rental tenants. Council tenants can already request adaptations to their homes through the council. The aim is to help people stay independent in their homes. Typical adaptations include handrails, stair rails, ramps, level access showers, stair lifts, through-the-floor lifts, even home extensions to provide extra sleeping or bathing facilities.

An initial assessment by an occupational therapist will take place and this will establish the type of adaptation needed to suit a



Anyone who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service

person's needs and to help them stay independent and safe in their home.

The service offers adaptations to people of any age. Full grant funding is always provided for adaptations needed for children under 18.

Alan Lunt, Dudley Council's strategic director of place said: "Anyone who is finding it difficult to manage in their home, or has a member of their

household who is struggling should ask for help from the adaptations service. Lots of support is on offer, along with grant funding to pay for home adaptations for many people. It's all about keeping people safe and independent in their homes and making life more liveable."

Contact Dudley Home Improvement Service on 0300 555 0055.

## YOUR CHOICE BATHROOMS

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### EXAMPLE FULL JOB FOR £3850

90x90 Quadrant Cubicle with low level tray  
15 SQM Wall Tiles  
Tiled Floor  
Replacement Shower  
New Basin & WC

### THIS WEEK'S DISABLED SPECIAL

Are you having problems getting in and out of your bath? We will remove the bath and fit an easy access low level round, square or oblong cubicle and tile inside, supply a new replacement shower, a folding seat and grab rail

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We offer a free no obligation home visit and on the spot price within 48 hrs of your call

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Wolverhampton WV11 1TW **01902 861908**  
**SHOWROOMS OPEN 9am-5pm 6 Days a Week**

VAT FREE in Qualifying Cases



# Make your home work for you

## Home adaptations for independence

Struggling in your home? Are you or a member of the family having difficulties bathing, getting upstairs, or even getting into your home?

If you are a homeowner or private rental tenant and need assistance with adapting your property to better meet the needs of a member of your household, we can help.

Dudley Council offers grants to pay for adaptations\*, uses reputable, approved tradespeople and can arrange all works for you.

\*Dependant on criteria



Level access showers  
Door widening  
Stairlifts  
Ramps  
Extensions



**DUDLEY HOME IMPROVEMENT SERVICE**



# Aquatic centre is planning to expand

Shirley Aquatics has been established on its present site for nearly 80 years.

It was purchased by the Cook family in 1982 who then proceeded to expand the business to what it is today which is one of the largest aquatic centres in Europe.

Although John Cook is still very active in the business his son Richard is taking over the expansion and design of the new premises being built on the site at Becketts Farm retail centre in Wythall, B47 6AJ.

"We are trying to create something quite unique with the new site, showing customers something they don't see every day, and hopefully offering the 'wow factor'," Richard continued to say.

## Tank

Richard added: "We have been one of only two companies in the country to sell the incredible range of Clear aquariums. Clear, based in Chengdu China are currently building our six metre, 17,000-litre shark tank which will take centre stage on the first floor."

The new store is split over two floors, with a lift for wheelchair access to the upper floor. The new koi and coldwater section will be situated beneath a pergola.

It will not only have some breathtaking fish but boast over 70 ponds and tanks of varying sizes to show off these magnificent specimens.

Each of the ponds has an acrylic front viewing panel so not even their youngest guests will miss out on this spectacle!

On the ground floor is the tropical fish and marine room plus the reptile and general sales area.

The tropical fish showroom will incorporate over 100 sales aquariums for many varieties of fish from all over the world. The marine



Shirley Aquatics will have a new premises at Becketts Farm retail centre in Wythall

fish and coral room will have 16, 1.8 metre coral tables with some incredible corals and invertebrates from their suppliers in Australia and Bali to name but a few. They will also be the first company in the region to sell natural seawater, with over 30,000 litres stored on site and delivered from the south coast.

They will also maintain their reputation for having a large selection of reptiles and continue to give their special weekend talks

with Wildside Encounters who give beginners advice in handling and keeping reptiles.

The tropical plant section will have a large range of high quality and naturally grown plants from suppliers in Thailand, Holland and Denmark. The remainder of the ground floor will be for displays and general sales area for the vast range of aquarium and reptile products.

The upper floor will have more of a car showroom feel to it, having a vast selection



The firm is one of only two in the country to sell the range of Clear aquariums

of aquariums, decoration and specialist marine equipment. There will be something for everybody, small starter aquariums for the beginner up to the massive 2.4 metre long range of Clear aquariums designed especially for Shirley Aquatics by the largest aquarium manufacturer in the world.

The outside area will have an extensive display of ponds, waterfalls, fountains and lighting all working to provide the amateur and

experienced pond keeper with new ideas in pond design and enhancing your garden.

This new expansion will make Shirley Aquatics the most up to date aquatic centre in Europe and it's right on your doorstep!

The grand opening is planned for October 7. Going on to the Shirley Aquatics website and subscribing to their news letter is a good way of keeping up to date with the new development and all things "Shirley".



## SHIRLEY AQUATICS IS MOVING TO BECKETTS FARM RETAIL CENTRE!

**IN OCTOBER 2017 ON THE A435 IN WYTHALL, JUNCTION 3 OF THE M42 - B47 6AJ**

Our superstore has been based at the Shirley site for nearly 80 years but it's started to show its age and now is the time for the next chapter. From October 2017 we will be located in our brand new, custom built, state of the art facility at Becketts farm. Sign up to our newsletter for updates with details of the new store and the grand opening spectacular. Don't forget that we'll still be here until September for business as usual & we will always have our great range of fish & reptile equipment in stock at our usual low prices.

**OUR HUGE MOVING SALE STARTS THURSDAY 22nd JUNE AT 10am**



## B.O.G.O.F

Buy One koi and Get One of the same size & price Free on all Japanese & Israeli koi

**B.O.G.O.F offer ends Sunday 2nd July**



Large selection of pond plants in stock with 40 varieties of lilies from £9.99 - in store only



**10% OFF ALL AQUARIUMS IN STORE**

**10% OFF pond filters, pumps & UV's.**  
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Stratford Rd, Shirley, West Midlands B90 4EF  
0121 744 1300 [www.shirleyaquatics.co.uk](http://www.shirleyaquatics.co.uk)

Mon - Sat 9am-6pm  
Sun - 10:30am-4:30pm





# Viva Las Vegas for Startime

CELEBRATING 50 years of an Am Dram society is quite an achievement.

One company who are celebrating their half century this year is Startime Variety, who perform at the Cornbow Hall in Halesowen.

Started by Christine Herman in 1967, the group was originally called Ten-terfields Ladies Club and held their very first concert in the March of that year at Halesowen Grammar School.

The group has changed its name a couple of times, but finally settled on Startime Variety.

## Wins

They have chosen a show called Viva Las Vegas, which features a host of songs by music legends including The Rat Pack, Cher, Tina Turner, Celine Dion and Elton John, to celebrate their half centenary.

A girl enters a radio competition, wins two tickets to Las Vegas and decides to take her best friend with

her. The audience follows their adventures amid casinos, singers and show girls.

There is, of course, a Vegas wedding too. How could there not be?

Catch Viva Las Vegas from June 28 to July 1 at the Cornbow Hall, with evening performances at 7.15pm and a 2.15pm Saturday matinee.

For tickets call 07901 055685 or visit [www.startimevariety.co.uk](http://www.startimevariety.co.uk) website.

Meanwhile, the talented students of Birmingham Ormiston Academy will be presenting their showcases at the Old Rep theatre at Station Street in the city over the coming weeks.

On Wednesday and Thursday, June 28 and 29, you can catch Rags to Riches. There is a community showcase on July 12 and 13 and a production called Xpose on July 18 and 19.

For full details see [www.boa-academy.co.uk](http://www.boa-academy.co.uk) or [www.oldrepretheatre.co.uk](http://www.oldrepretheatre.co.uk)



Celebrating 50 years of performing, some of the members of the thriving Startime Variety group, who bring a taste of Vegas to the Cornbow Hall in Halesowen

# Luxury life is over as drug crook sent to jail

IT was a sophisticated cocaine racket that stretched from a car park in Kingswinford to Albanian gangsters in London, via a luxury flat in Oxford.

Fourteen men have now been jailed when police smashed the criminal enterprise involving drugs, guns and huge piles of cash after six months of undercover operations. They recovered more than £500,000 in banknotes.

Police have revealed the luxurious lifestyle of the crook who ran the operation. Khalad Uddin was the fixer, a link man between criminals across the country. Last week he was jailed for 16 years at Birmingham Crown Court.

The 35-year-old, of Little Brewery Street, St Clements, Oxford, pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to two counts of conspiracy to supply cocaine and one count of money laundering. The sentence will run concurrently with a 14 year sentence handed to Uddin earlier this month for his involvement in a conspiracy to transfer firearms and ammunition.

## Profit

Much of the conspiracy centred on five men based in Kingswinford who flooded the streets with the class-A drug at a huge profit.

Uddin and the other men were trading large amounts of cocaine across the country and profiting from the sale of drugs in the Thames Valley, West Midlands and the South West. Officers seized more than 10 kilos of cocaine and recovered £560,000 cash.

Michael Palmer, aged 29, of Newman Road, Tipton, pleaded guilty to one count of money laundering, one count of possession of an offensive weapon, and one count of conspiracy to supply drugs at a hearing at Birmingham Crown Court

By Rob Gollidge

on May 30. He was acquitted of one count of money laundering and one count of possession of an offensive weapon. He was sentenced to four years and 11 months prison at Birmingham Crown Court. Palmer had played a lesser role as a courier.

The convictions follow an extensive investigation by Thames Valley Police's Serious and Organised Crime Unit working with West Midlands Regional Organised Crime Unit, and support from West Mercia, Avon & Somerset and the Metropolitan Police.

Detective Chief Inspector Bruce Riddell said: "Uddin was one of the key players. He was living a lavish lifestyle, spending over £62,000 on renting fast cars, and expensive properties."

When officers inspected Uddin's properties they recovered significant amounts of cash, anti-surveillance equipment, high value jewellery, 70 pairs of designer jeans and a 10 tonne hydraulic press used in the production of drugs. Uddin also arranged the purchase of two handguns.

"During this investigation officers seized over half a million pounds in cash, one of the biggest cash hauls Thames Valley Police has recovered," added Ch Insp Riddell.

Twelve other men convicted for conspiracy to supply cocaine all pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing and were sentenced last month.

# CLOSING DOWN SALE DUE TO REFURBISHMENT EVERYTHING MUST GO

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**Text... REPLY26** (leave space) box number (leave space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY26 123456 hi get in touch...** then send to **80098** Successfully received messages cost £1.50 per SMS received (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

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## Single Women

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

**MANDY** divorced independent 46yr old single mum, confident, bubbly and social, looking for male companion to share good times and to be there for each other. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427581 ☎

**KATIE** 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3003 Box 419673

**SUE**, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTm someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549 ☎

**JANE**, young 41, very broadminded seeks chaps any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 3011 Box: 409715

**JASMINE**, Petite Black lady 51yrs, varied interests. Seeking white man for relationship. Looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427657 ☎

**SOPHIA** young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. Tel: 0906 515 3019 Box: 413399

**MATURE** lady, slim and youthful, divorcee, loves laughter, life and everything. WLTm gent for continued fun and passion. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427655 ☎

**EMILY**, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421373

**CATHY**, 54yr old widow, I'm kind and warm hearted, hoping you will call me. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427653 ☎

**TAMIKKA**, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 3007 Box 422365

**JANE**, attractive 50 something lady. I love to cook and care for my man. Is that you? ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427651 ☎

**SAMANTHA**, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. Tel: 0906 515 3035 Box 425979

**SONIA**, mature lady, pretty and feminine with fair hair. Loves to socialise, walking, car boot sales and more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427647 ☎

**HARRIETT** 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long legs and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. Tel: 0906 515 3031 Box 426205

**JANE** 55yrs romantic homebody lady, hoping to meet a man for outings, to cook and care for. You won't be sorry if you call. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427645 ☎

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**CARMEL**, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. Tel: 0906 515 3043 Box 426851

**HELLO** I'm 47yrs old, I'm a curvy brunette, varied interests with GSOH, hard working and solvent. WLTm gent taller than me, 5ft3. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427639 ☎

**CAROLINE**, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. Tel: 0906 515 3027 Box 427533

**ATTRACTIVE** Irish lady, 34yrs seeks gent of any age. I'm caring, attractive with lots of offer, call to hear more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427637 ☎

**EMILY**, kind caring lady, recently widowed and lonely. I am 51yrs old and hoping to chat with a nice chap 60+. Please text me. Text Only. Mailbox: 4164240

**HELLO** I am a black lady, 60yrs young with a great personality and lovely looks. Call if you are looking to meet someone like me, or text me. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427585 ☎

**TOKKIA**, Nigerian lady, very attractive with attractive, caring and kind. I'm a good cook and would love to find a nice man to spoil and pamper. I am late 50s but look young and fit. Seeking gent 50+. Text Only. Mailbox: 4025373

**DEBBIE**, young looking 49yrs, pretty brunette lady with lots to offer. If you are interested in a meeting a lady like me then please call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427611 ☎

**MANDY**, 64yrs but still fit and sexy. Hoping to meet young lover local for good daytime fun. Chats and texts any time. Text Only. Box: 4050784

**MICHELLE**, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busy figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427649 ☎

**SUE**, 47, attractive lonely brunette who loves evenings in/out, music, WLTm someone sincere to love and get close to, why not give me a call? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427549 ☎

**TRACY**, 68yrs, recently retired and has time on her hands. Would love to meet a much much younger chap for carefree times. Text Only. Box: 4006039 ☎

**LINDA** a lonely petite mature lady looking for nice caring male up to 65yrs who also has lots of love to give for hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427487 ☎

**HELLO**, my name is Pia, I am a very petite, kind and respectful Asian girl, hoping to meet an older white man, I'm 23yrs old and have just moved here. Text Only. Box: 4170999

**SALLY** 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461 ☎

**BECKY**, 30 something lady. Full of laughter, very open minded and discreet. Hoping to meet similar minded gent who is older than me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427495 ☎

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**TALL** slim lady 61yrs and of Irish origins. GSOH, likes travel, open minded and kind. Hoping to meet similar minded gent of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427307 ☎

**JULIE**, 54yrs, loves life, honest, caring open minded and can be discreet when needed. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427309 ☎

**CALLING** all Muslim men. I'm Margaret 41yrs. I can accommodate and travel, daytime fun. I'm discreet. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427311 ☎

**PAT**, 72yrs, attractive blue-eyed lady, good inside, driving, cosy nights in. I'm solvent and seek a gent 70+. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427473 ☎

**TRUDY**, 70 something lady seeks gent. I'm broadminded and will respond to all calls. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427471 ☎

**BROWN** eyed Brummie female 66, smoker, likes music, cinema, theatre, meals out WLTm male, 67-74, for LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5877942 ☎

**LADY**, early 70s, single, softly rounded, loving, lively, educated, long red hair, artist, seeks tall, tender male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427399

**CAROL**, brown eyes, brown hair, 5ft3, full time care assistant, own place, likes gardening, TV, WLTm somebody similar who has a car to take me for days out and meals out, hopefully leading to LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427383 ☎

**SALLY** 37, blue-eyed blonde, who loves life, music, letting my hair down, looking for similar flirty guy for enjoy TLC and life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427461 ☎

**CHRISTINA** 38 very pretty petite trainee nurse looking for N/S male companionship to enjoy meals/drinks out, leading to more maybe. Age/looks and status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427421 ☎

**PAULINE**, 58yrs, nurse who loves her men, I'm married but work odd hours so can meet easily. ACA Text Only. Box: 4110283 ☎

**SHARON** medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTm all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427275 ☎

**SUMMER** is coming and I don't want to be single! Carole 34, attractive, sensitive, fit. Call me, you won't be disappointed. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427271 ☎

**SHARON** medium built lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLTm all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427275 ☎

**OLIVIA**, very mature but young at heart lady seeks nice gent for winning, dining more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427303 ☎

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40+ DATING

BROUGHT TO YOU BY DATE LOCALLY

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**CAROL**, 36, looking for older experienced gent 50-70yrs for fun times only, discretion assured and expected. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427075 ☎

**JOY** happily married, bi curious, blonde hair, blue eyes, big boobs, seeks someone to join in a bit of bedroom fun! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426845

**BRIDGET** 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to make very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426839 ☎

**TRISH**, 44, tall slim, good looking, GSOH, professional, solvent, OHAC, affectionate and loves TLC, WLTm male who also likes to be in a loving relationship, 30-50yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427021 ☎

**GENUINE** male, young 57, medium build, single, kind, caring, good heart, GSOH, seeks attractive lady 35-55 for fun & friendship, possible LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154

**COLIN**, 50, kind, loving, seeks cuddly, large, kind, loving lady, 45-55, for LTR love/romance. Must like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. Text only. Mailbox: 5892643 ☎

**GENT**, 65, seeks discreet lady, for special times, mutually beneficial to both, with that special lady. Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427520 ☎

**SHAUN**, 50, honest, reliable, OHOC, em-diss, looking for honest, caring lady in romance, meals out in country pubs, walking my dogs, looking for my soul mate. If you would like to know more get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427497 ☎

**TALL**, 63yrs-old male, seeking n/s female, 45+, for hassle free fun times, in the Wolverhampton and surrounding areas. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424291

**MALE** 46, brown hair/eyes, average looks/build, loving, caring, understanding, seeks female to share good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 410845

**GENUINE** male, 47, 5ft 8ins, average looks, seeking genuine, honest, caring female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413945

**JIM**, 59yrs, N/S, retired, enjoys holidays abroad and at home, weekends away, doing out, meals out, looking to meet a female who enjoys similar interests, for long lasting relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427305

**HELLO!** A friend with benefits, that's how I would describe myself. Mature Birmingham male, would like to be exactly that to an attractive lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427305

**EASYGOING** male, 63, genuine, N/S seeks female 50-70 for friends and romance. Looks unimportant. Likes occasional drink, eating in/out, cinema and driving. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418893

## Single Men

**STEVE**, 55, WLTm a lady for fun on a regular or occasional basis. If you are interested please get in touch. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427567 ☎

**GENUINE** male, young 57, medium build, single, kind, caring, good heart, GSOH, seeks attractive lady 35-55 for fun & friendship, possible LTR. Text only. Mailbox: 5321154

**COLIN**, 50, kind, loving, seeks cuddly, large, kind, loving lady, 45-55, for LTR love/romance. Must like cuddles, kisses and holding hands. Text only. Mailbox: 5892643 ☎

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**JOHN** very young 69, seeking mature discreet lady, 40 to 70, for discreet fun. Text only. Mailbox: 5846609 ☎

**YOUNG** 59 male, separated, looking for lady aged 45 to 60 for adult fun and maybe relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5863873 ☎

**NICE** old-fashioned gent, seeks kind, caring romantic lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416905

**MALE**, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783

**PROFESSIONAL** male, 42, been hurt in the past, looking for someone special, 30-42, ACA, single mums are welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427135 ☎

**ADVENTUROUS** 36 year old, slim, dark hair, has many interests, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235 ☎

**MALE** 40 looking for sexy adventurous lady for some mad Summer time partying at my barn conversion with hot tub and countryside. Text only. Mailbox: 5895030 ☎

**GEOFF** 46, 5ft 10in, slim build, brown hair, blue eyes, N/S, honest, caring, likes cinema, walking, looking for female, 35-52, for relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 4172607 ☎

**MALE** 73, GSOH, looking for a lady any age. I like driving, days out, country walks and possible holidays. Text only. Mailbox: 5847956 ☎

**PHIL**, 60, 5ft10, slim build, from Wolve, OHOC, looking for a female, 18-55, for friendship maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427121 ☎

**MALE**, 60, looking for a lady, 49-60, to take on my bike/car for days out/meals, to strike up a friendship. Text only. Mailbox: 5838916 ☎

**STU**, 42, medium build, 6ft, WLTm a woman, 25-45, for fun, friendship, maybe more. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426877

**STUART** ex PE Teacher looking for lady to share good times with. Have GSOH, love days out and weekends away, eating out, walking, shopping. Text only. Mailbox: 5833328 ☎

**MALE**, 50s, slim, OHAC, from Wolverhampton, looking for a fun lady for a no-strings relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 420265

**YOUNG** looking 63 year old male, GSOH, friendly, considerate, attractive, looking for a naughty female, any age/status, for adult fun and friendship. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 425243 ☎

**32** year old male looking for a nice lady for fun, maybe more. Text only. Mailbox: 5831443 ☎

**GENT** 48, youthful outlook, likes countryside, keep fit, karaoke, seeks soul mate for fun times. N Shropshire. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 408411

**GENUINE** 56yr old male, divorced, OHAC, looking for nice lady for friendship, maybe more. Wolverhampton. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417601

**YOUNG** 60 West Midlands male, 5ft 8ins, grey hair, slim to medium build, sexy Scorpio, GSOH, broadminded, seeking an honest sexy lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426621

**MALE** N/S, honest, GSOH, car owner, seeks female, 55-70 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418617

**CARING** male, 63, N/S, GSOH, genuine likes music, travel, meals out, casual drink, seeks female, 50-70 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416997

**SINGLE** male, n/s, likes music, films, driving, nights in, dining out, trips, WLTm lady, 50-70, looks unimportant, for friendship and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424927 ☎

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**GENTLEMAN** wishes to meet nice lady 45-60, West Midlands area. My interests are meals out, daytrips, music and reading. Text only. Mailbox: 5817771 ☎

**GENUINE** Stoke male 50s, friendly and easy-going, enjoys weekends away, seeks slim attractive female 35 to 50 for friendship. Text only. Mailbox: 5817202 ☎

**MARK**, single, 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, lots of interests, sport, music, cinema, long walks, eating out, looking to meet that special lady. If that sounds like you please get in touch! Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 424641 ☎

**SLIM** male, blue eyes, dark hair, seeking that special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415697

I enjoy the great outdoors with the dog, 36 years old, mature with a caring nature looking for a female age 28-48 for friendship, possible relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5803493 ☎

**CARING** male, 6ft, blue eyes, slim, dark hair, honest, loving, down to earth, likes sport, music, cinema, meals out, seeking special lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409803

**IAN**, 58yrs, looking for somebody, 18-60, for general good fun times, days out, nights out, meals, sightseeing and visiting various parts of the country. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426437 ☎

**MALE** 45 6ft, blue eyes, dark hair, slim, likes sports, cinema, meals out, seeking loving, caring female to share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 406737

**YOUNG** 60, West Midlands male, 5ft8, grey hair, wear specs, GSOH, sexy Scorpio, broad minded, slim to medium build, varied interests, seeking a genuine, honest, sexy lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426137 ☎

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**GAY** feminine female with GSOH WLTm gay feminine females for friendship, possible relationship. Text only. Mailbox: 5631357 ☎

**BI** male, living in the Wolverhampton area, seeking bi or gay or cross dresser who can accommodate for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 427531

**GAY** guy 40, into music, cars, going out on my pit bike, having a laugh, got my own place WLTm slim guy, 18-26. Text only. Mailbox





Ricky Gervais's Office broke new ground

# They just don't make 'em like they used to

Sit-coms are forever striving for new ways of making us laugh but for some, modern comedies are joke-free zones. Mark Andrews finds his funny.

**R**icky Gervais has a lot to answer for. When *The Office* was first released back in 2001, it broke new ground with its pathos and lack of obvious humour.

"I don't think there was anything before that had been quite such a slave to realism," he says.

"If there were jokes, they were bad jokes. There were long pauses, awkward silences."

And despite the misgivings of BBC executives at the time it worked.

The problem is that 16 years on, everybody is doing it, and the joke-free, "narrative" sitcom has become as much of a cliché as the closing sketch in *The Benny Hill Show*.

So it is perhaps little surprise that new research, published by a leading academic at Birmingham City University this week, has found that there is a yearning among many for a return to the "traditional" comedy.

You know, like the days when the whole family would gather round the black and white set to laugh raucously at *The Likely Lads*, *On The Buses*, or *Dad's Army*. As opposed to sitting through weeks on end of angst, emotion and navel-gazing for modern, story-driven sitcoms such as *Gavin & Stacey*.

Inger-Lise Bore, a senior lecturer at the university's media school, has conducted what she describes as the first major study into what makes us laugh in 17 years.

And she found that while some people liked the old-school comedies with laughs aplenty, and others preferred the modern, more subtle varieties, when it comes to what tickles our funny bone there is no middle ground.

Bore launched her new book this week after spending years studying people's viewing habits.



Miranda Hart

its. Her work has found that there is a large, untapped audience of people who long for simpler times; when comedy was easy to understand and could be enjoyed by all the family.

Her studies centre on three very different sitcoms: the Bafta-award winning romantic comedy *Gavin & Stacey*, about an unlikely romance between Essex man Gavin and his Welsh fiancée Stacey; the unashamedly slapstick semi-autobiographical sitcom *Miranda*, about a clumsy joke-shop owner; and *Everybody Hates Chris*, an American comedy based around a teenager growing up in the 1980s.

"I identified a focus on traditional sitcom," says Bore, who adds that her book is the only major research into our tastes in comedy since the introduction of social media.

One of the things she observed was that there was a significant section of the population which particularly disliked *Gavin & Stacey*, believing its lack of jokes meant it could not really be considered a comedy.

She says she also found the reviews of *Everybody Hates Chris* interesting in that a large number of people who bought DVD recordings online did so to watch with their children or grandchildren.

"There is an assumption that people don't do that anymore, because of niche programming, time-shifting, place-shifting and so on," she says.

"But here, DVDs became a way for grandparents and parents to fit family viewing into their schedules."

"Everybody Hates Chris reviewers wanted a sitcom that they could enjoy together as a family."

*Miranda*, which is written by and stars Miranda Hart, polarised opinion.

"There was a general sense that it was a 'traditional' sitcom, but whereas the fans found that 'refreshing' and suggested that this made it stand out among contemporary sitcoms, anti-fans argued that it was 'outdated' and that viewers now 'expect more'."

"There were also viewers who saw *Miranda* as a guilty pleasure, and almost apologised for enjoying it."

"So I think there was a perception among these viewers that *Miranda* was going against sitcom trends, and that we are 'supposed' to

prefer more 'highbrow', complex and stylistically innovative sitcoms. Miranda fans expressed delight at a multi-camera sitcom that foregrounds jokes and slapstick."

Presumably similar comments could be levelled at the BBC comedy *Citizen Khan*, which follows the mishaps of a self-styled community leader in inner-city Birmingham. The series, written and starring Birmingham-born Adil Ray, was panned by many critics when first launched in 2012. The Independent's Arifa Akbar, for example, wrote: "The whole show seemed like it was stuck in a 1970s time warp."

Yet while the critics may hate its stereotyped characters and unsuitable humour, it has managed to pull in five million viewers and has been commissioned for five series so far. Somebody clearly likes it.

West Midland TV historian Chris Perry says he is not surprised by the findings. "I think there has been a definite trend in the last few years of people wanting to see more of the traditional comedies," he says.

He points out that it is interesting to contrast *Yes, Minister* and *The Thick Of It*, which deal with similar situations but in a very different style.

"Yes, Minister is very much in the style of the traditional sitcom with jokes, while *The Thick Of It* is very much in the 'mockumentary' style, about people and situations, without many jokes," he says.

Perry points out that comedy is all about coming up with new ideas, and it is inevitable that these will go in and out of fashion.

He says overtly middle-of-the-road comedies have always been perceived as "uncool", whatever their respective merits, and that probably explains why some view *Miranda* as a guilty pleasure. However, time can sometimes view these shows more kindly.

"If you said you watched *Dad's Army* rather than *Monty Python* back in 1968, that would probably have been seen as a bit uncool, but today the perception would be very different."

And what is Chris's favourite comedy?

"I like the traditional comedies, the ones with jokes in, although I like them to have a bit of edge," he says. "I think *Blackadder* is very good, I like them with that satirical edge."

● Screen Comedy and Online Audiences in on sale now.



Inger-Lise Bore

# Take swim workout to the next level



Mixing up your strokes will work different muscle groups

**JUST getting in the pool and clocking up some lengths is great for general fitness and relaxation.**

But if you're looking to increase your swimming endurance and improve your technique a little, there's lots you can do to take those water workouts to the next level.

Follow these five tips for superior swims this summer...

## 1. Work on your leg kicks

Good freestyle technique will help spread the effort from head to toe, as well as helping you swim faster.

"My first tip would be to work on your leg kick on freestyle," says Olympic silver medalist Michael Jamieson. "Your leg kick's really important as it takes the stress and strain off your shoulders."

How to do this? For starters, you'll need "willpower" and a "willingness to give it a go," says Kevin Brooks, head coach for Wycombe District Swim Club.

"Kick is one of the hardest things in any swimmer's training programme, but it will reap great rewards if you can improve it. Try to include some kicking sets in your workout using a board [float], or kicking on your back without a board."

"Maintaining a good body line is essential, so if you find that your legs sink when you kick with a float, then try putting your head down, which will help to bring the legs and hips higher in the water, reducing drag."

## 2. Slow down and focus on breathing

"My second tip would be to work on the rhythm of your breathing. Working on both of those things [breathing and kicks] will allow you to swim for longer," says Michael. "And it's easier as well; it doesn't sap your energy so much."

Incorporating longer swims, at a lower intensity, can be a good way to get into a comfortable rhythm with your breathing, as well as being beneficial overall.

## 3. Mix up your strokes

A more varied pool workout doesn't just keep things interesting but will work different muscle groups, and help prevent fatigue and overuse injuries (though be

By **Abi Jackson**

careful with breaststroke if you have low-back problems, and avoid any strokes that aggravate existing injuries or joint issues).

"Mix up freestyle, some backstroke and some breaststroke; you can even add in pull sets and kicks," suggests Kevin. "Mixing it up gives your body a greater all-over workout and will also prevent injury. Doing freestyle all the time could result in your shoulders hurting."

## 4. Consider having a lesson with a coach

"You can feel what you do, but you can't see it," says Kevin. "This is why it's important to get guidance from qualified coaches or teachers if you want to improve your technique."

You might feel quite comfortable in the water and that your technique's OK, but if you're keen to start training a little harder, there might be little tweaks that could make a big difference.

"Most swimmers, even higher-level competitive swimmers, think that to go faster they simply have to try harder. This isn't the case," adds Kevin. "To go faster and achieve more distance, it's important to reduce drag, so swimming efficiently and maximising each pull and kick is essential."

## 5. Warm up before you get wet

Lots of people skip the warm-up before getting into the pool, and if you're just doing a leisurely swim or aiming to relax, that's probably fine – but if you want to ramp it up and see improvements, it's worth making it part of the workout.

"The best way to warm up for a swim is to do a short routine based around RMAP," says Kevin.

"Raise your heart rate (skipping or jogging on the spot); Mobilise your limbs and trunk (arm swings and leg swings); Activate (put your body through a big range of movement exercises on the poolside floor), and finally Prime (maybe do some press-ups, squats or jumps)."

"You'll then be warm and ready to start swimming."

"And after swimming, always do five to 10 minutes of stretching, in order to reset your muscles and assist in recovery."



Working on your breathing and kicks will enable you to swim for longer



# A taste of Cornwall here in the Midlands

## ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES

with John Ridgway of Perry & Phillips



**MAYBE** it's the hot weather driving people to seek out vintage items that vaguely remind them of the seaside but we're getting lots of enquiries about the lovely blue and white Cornishware.

Its stripey design is kind of reminiscent of the sea – but it is in fact a product of Derbyshire, first manufactured in the 1920s by T G Green & Co Ltd in Church Gresley.

The company was founded back in the 1860s by Thomas Goodwin Green, who apparently bought a pottery whilst he was holidaying in Scarborough (maybe that's the seaside connection!).

Cornishware was introduced by the company's general manager Frederick Parker and it was probably first known as 'E-Blue Branded Ware'.

By the time the Second World War broke out Cornishware was hugely popular both in the UK and overseas, being sold in top stores such as Harrods.

Most popular Cornishware items were the range of blue and white lettered jars for sugar, flour and dried fruits but customers

were able to request jars designed to their own specifications for herbs, spices and other foodstuffs.

The jars were a real best-seller but the range also included coffee pots, cups and saucers, plates, bowls, mugs and even egg-cups.

The blue and white pieces are very collectable today – but so are other items of Cornishware made in other colours such as green, red, black, yellow and even orange!

The simple striped design is very attractive – and fairly easy to copy, there are many pieces of reproduction 'Cornishware' around today so if you want a genuine vintage piece check it carries the unmistakable 'shield' mark.

Because it is well-made and very robust Cornishware stands the test of time.

So you can find some vintage pieces in excellent condition.

- Perry and Phillips hold valuation days, for sale items only, every Wednesday from 10am until 4pm.
- The next Perry and Phillips sale of antiques and collectables takes place at the Mill Street saleroom in Low Town, Bridgnorth, on Tuesday, August 1. Viewing will be during the weekend and on Monday and also from 10am on auction day.
- New sale bidders are advised to attend the sale-room early on auction day to register and be allocated a bidding number.
- Perry and Phillips hold sales on the first Tuesday of every other month.

# 'Mantyhose' makes an unlikely accessory



Tights for men – yes, really...

HOSIERY has been around since the middle ages as a part of everyday wear. It was specifically to keep warm and worn by both men and women.

Later in the 15th century it became a fashion item and a garment defining wealth and position in society.

The Swiss guard at the Vatican still wear brightly coloured striped leggings as part of their uniform keeping a centuries old tradition of defining their position in society by the designs on their hose.

More recently the scarcity of nylon and silk during the war made tights very desirable and extremely popular when they were readily available again and in the 60s patterned tights were made popular by designer such as Mary Quant, on trend beneath the mini-skirts of the period.

The 80s brought us chunky knitted legwarmers and coloured tights and lately leggings and jeggings in stretchy elastane and lycra are incredibly popular for all shapes and sizes.

We now have tights, stockings, hold-ups, pop sox, ankle socks, hosiery with sandal toes,

## STYLE FOCUS

with Janet Timmis



sheer finish, sheen and body shaping to suit all our requirements.

The latest catwalk shows have featured elaborately patterned legwear, designs produced by opaque and transparent areas, stripes, blocks and paisley. There has been a revival of tights recently, comfort and unique style.

Then there is the newest hosiery accessory – mantyhose, pantyhose for men. There are even ones with built in socks and boxer briefs, catwalks presenting toning coloured opaque's worn with shorts (shaved legs a requirement!). Sportsmen swear by the benefits of compression tights, easing the muscles and massaging the legs, benefitting the wearer with reduced tiredness and increased energy.

Compressions sock have been around for a while and some of us will have worn them on

long flights to combat DVT but they are also good for tired legs and often worn by walkers and climbers.

Men's socks have had a sort of revival recently, less black and navy and much more fun. Bright colours and patterns peeping from below the smart dark office suit, a way to express your personality.

This season it is a return to more subtle colours with a discreet embroidered logo, unusual textures, soft luxurious yarns and improved fit. Some have padded soles and heels, comfort tops. some light compression for maximum comfort.

Foot socks are also very popular for both men and women, lightweight, worn inside trainers and shoes, hidden from view and comfortable.

Have fun with socks with separate toes, lace, tassels, pom-poms and ribbons. Test out bed socks, wellie socks, kilt socks and hand knitted fairisle, whatever you try will be a delight to your poor worn out feet!

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All set for an evening of music hall at Blists Hill



Steampunk has a strong Victorian influence



The Blists Hill Steampunk Festival takes place on July 1and 2

# Steampunk and taste of music hall at Ironbridge



A classic male steampunk look

**STEAMPUNKS** and their friends are invited to Blists Hill Victorian Town, in the Severn Valley near Ironbridge, over the weekend of July 1 and 2 for its first ever Steampunk Festival.

A neo-Victorian scientific fantasy, steampunk is all about mixing the old and new. It re-imagines today's technology powered by 19th century steam, combined with lots of good humour, fun, games and elaborate fashions inspired by Victorian and Edwardian costumes, reinvented for the 21st century and beyond.

So what better place could there be for a Steampunk event than Blists Hill with its Victorian associations?

The fantastical 'Town that Never Was' day and evening event is part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museum's 50th anniversary celebrations.

A neo-Victorian scientific fantasy, steampunk is all about mixing the old and new. It re-imagines today's technology powered by 19th century steam, combined with lots of good humour, fun, games and elaborate fashions inspired by Victorian and Edwardian costumes, reinvented for the 21st century and beyond.

By Jordan Reynolds

Come dressed in your steampunk finery. Those who are new to steampunk can gain lots of inspiration online, just Google 'steampunk' for ideas, or visit Vintage Corner in Ironbridge, where there's a range of perfect outfits.

Down on The Green there will be a living history encampment of Her Majesty's 3rd Foot and Mouth Regiment; join them on parade and try your hand at drill as you discover more about soldiering in the late 19th century.

Elsewhere you can visit the recruiting office of the 'Marian Expeditionary Force', whose rallying cry is 'Remember Woking'.

## Fairies

Inspired by the Pamplona Bull Run, brave competitors can run through the streets of Blists Hill and try to avoid the inflatable dinosaurs who will be charging through the Town.

Younger visitors can create their own steampunk items in a craft area, or follow a hunter's activity sheet to track down and identify fairies hidden in a garden and earn a Fairy Hunters badge, if they find them all.

Meanwhile, later this summer, there will be a chance to step back in time, don your vintage best, and go along to a nostalgic 1930s

musical evening, also being held at Blists Hill Victorian Town.

This music hall celebration will take place on Friday, July 28, and is also part of a series of events marking the Ironbridge Gorge Museums' 50th Anniversary.

The music hall celebration takes place in the Forest Glen Refreshment Pavilion between 6.30pm and 10pm, and will feature a two-course meal as well as lively entertainment.

After a meal of creamed chicken with spinach and new potatoes followed by sherry trifle, guests will be regaled with a host of popular songs from the 1930s such as Bing Crosby's Brother Can You Spare a Dime, Fred Astaire's The Way You Look Tonight and Judy Garland's Over the Rainbow.

Everyone in the audience is invited to dress in period costume for the evening, much as the audience did in the TV series The Good Old Days, which was also based on music hall tradition.

So ladies should dust off their waisted, tea length dresses and gents spruce up in broad, double breasted jackets, or perhaps go gangster style in wide pinstriped suits and spats.

For further details on either event, call: 01952 433 424 or visit [www.ironbridge.org.uk](http://www.ironbridge.org.uk)





## EASTENDER JOHN'S RACY NEW ROLE

INSIDE

THEATRE + MUSIC + PUZZLES + TV GUIDE

## Offering a warm welcome



Managers Paul and Carol always ensure a warm welcome to customers both old and new at Blackheath's Shoulder of Mutton pub.

For all the sports fans they boast three large TV screens featuring all sports on Sky, BT and all BOX OFFICE Events not to mention AT THE RACES.

For those who like 'doing' rather than 'watching', there is the availability of the pool table and dart board.

### Loyalty

The pub itself boasts a wide range of ciders, lagers, wines and spirits including four 'Real Ales' which they rotate weekly. Regulars very often enjoy ales such as Bathams, AJ Ales, Oakham, JHB, Stairway To Heaven and MA Pardoes Entire, plus many more!

The pub also run a loyalty scheme which means customers can get 10p back on their card for every pound they spend.

A pub spokesman added: "With a juke box and free WIFI to compliment the regular entertainment every Friday, customers cannot ask for much more from a local pub!"

## SHOULDER OF MUTTON

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# It's A Little More Mascara for John

**H**e's thrilled that the new touring production of hit musical *La Cage aux Folles* will land in Wolverhampton from Tuesday.

EastEnders star John John had a great time when he visited Birmingham recently, as the show featured in the city's Gay Village. Because the lavish new production about a drag artiste in a vibrant St Tropez nightclub is a tale of inclusivity.

John says: "The message is that you can be whoever you want to be, no matter what race, religion or sexuality you are. We all have to learn to accept, celebrate, acknowledge and respect each other's differences. We need to realise that we're all individuals living together, so we have to get along."

Bill Kenwright's *La Cage aux Folles* is a glitzy, high-kicking, feather-trimmed joy starring John and Adrian Zmed. It will feature at Wolverhampton's Grand until July 1.

George and the dazzling drag artiste Albin, otherwise known as Za Za and the star of *La Cage aux Folles*, live an idyllic existence in the heart of St Tropez. But behind the curtains of this sparkling extravaganza, all may be about to change.

Georges' son Jean-Michel announces his engagement to the daughter of a notorious right-wing politician determined to close down the local colourful night-life. Drama and hilarity ensue when a meeting of the parents forces them to cover up their vibrant lifestyle. Will Albin be able to play the role of his life to ensure that Jean-Michel can marry his love?

The production stars West End hero John, whose extensive theatre credits include the West End productions of *A Chorus Line* at the London Palladium, *Cats*, *Starlight Express* and *Chicago*. He also played the loveable Christian in BBC's *EastEnders*.

Alongside him is Broadway star Adrian, whose credits include *Blood Brothers*, *Grease* and *Falsettos*. On television he played Officer Vince Romano alongside William Shatner in the long running hit series *T.J. Hooker* and big screen credits include *Johnny* in *Grease 2*.

Joining them is West End icon, Marti Webb. She received huge critical acclaim for *Tell Me on a Sunday*, a show specifically written for her by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black.

John has spent a lifetime preparing for such roles, having left school for *Cats* as a teenager.

"Leaving school for *Cats* when I was 16 really wasn't a big decision. I'd trained for it all my life. I'd been away at boarding school, the Royal Ballet School, since I was nine years old, and by 16 I was ready to go.

"During that first year of touring, my father passed away. I had to deal with a lot personally and I also grew up a lot. Thinking back on it now, it was quite extraordinary, but at the time, when you're 16, you don't give it much attention. It doesn't seem unusual or dangerous or out of the ordinary."

That production remains dear to John and he has the fondest memories of it: "*Cats* is dear to me because it's the only time my father has seen me perform. The show will always have a special place in my heart for that reason, but it was also a

Love story – John stars alongside Broadway star Adrian Zmed



place I spent a lot of my youth. Things got very comfortable and very familiar. It never felt like going to work, it felt like going home."

And yet despite getting such a good start to his career, John had to work hard to make a go of things. While he landed on his feet in *Cats*, he had to repeat the feat again and again and again, until he was established.

"It's easy to get your first job, but it's really about getting your fifth and your sixth and so on. It's about keeping it going. Being able to take the rejections, the criticisms, the good reviews, the bad reviews... that's what gets difficult. In many ways, one of the things I'm most proud of is that I've stuck it out and endured it."

He's doing so at present following the death of his mother. John had appeared on *Celebrity Big Brother* to raise funds for her care, which cost £45,000 per year. However, his mum, Bridget, died in April after being diagnosed with dementia and Alzheimer's in 2010. John tried to care for her as long as he could and she moved in with him for a while.

"Then, when we as a family felt we were not equipped medically to deal with her condition – my sister and I both work – we had to find her a placement."

"The only place we felt was fitting for her cost that amount of money and we saw a lot of places."

He said: "My mum passed away with zero in her bank account. Zero. I wish she had enjoyed the money. She saved for the wrong things, she saved for her family. "My mum worked so hard every day of her life and what she had was to leave, not to us necessarily, but to her grandchildren, and that was all she had."

"People now say things like, 'There are positive ways to live with dementia'. You name me one. Because as far as I can see, there is nothing positive to having Alzheimer's or dementia."

"It is brutal and it is cruel and I have nothing good to say about it."

*It's easy to get your first job, but it's really about getting your fifth job...*

*La Cage aux Folles* is a joyous production. The original 1983 Broadway production received nine nominations for Tony Awards and won six, including Best Musical, Best Score and Best Book. The success of the musical spawned a West End production and several international runs.

The 2004 Broadway revival won the Tony Award for Best Revival, and the 2008 London revival garnered the Laurence Olivier Award for Best Musical Revival. The 2010 Broadway revival was nominated for eleven Tony Awards, winning the Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical.

It has toured around the world, with productions in Australia, Germany, Colombia, Mexico, Estonia, Spain, Portugal, Holland, Korea, Denmark, Panama, Puerto Rico, Sweden and the Philippines.

John is happy simply to be a part of it: "Thinking about *La Cage aux Folles* makes me quite emotional. We've had a standing ovation every night. I've just come off a sell-out tour of Chicago and we very rarely had a standing ovation. This is the kind of show that compels people to get on their feet. The book [by Harvey Fierstein] is a gift, there isn't a word out of place. To be able to stand onstage every night and sing "I Am What I Am" is really life-affirming."

"It's a riot from start to finish. Gary McCann has done an amazing job with our set – it looks like the inside of a jewellery box. My costumes are sensational – I have 14 changes in the first half alone. Albin has been played by some legends before me, and it's not something I take on lightly. I'm from Manchester and I decided to play him as a northerner. It feels very familiar to me, and I feel very comfortable in his shoes because of that."

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A scene from Die Fledermaus



## WNO take audience back to seductive old Vienna

Welsh National Opera return to Birmingham Hippodrome next week to offer a taste of one of music's most seductive destinations, Vienna, with a celebration of the city's musical culture and style.

The season includes a new production of Richard Strauss's sumptuous comedy *Der Rosenkavalier*, and a revival of John Copley's opulent, traditional production of *Die Fledermaus* by Johann Strauss II. Alongside these are performances of WNO's classic production of Puccini's *Madam Butterfly*.

WNO's new music director, Tomáš Hanus, will conduct both *Die Fledermaus*, performed on Wednesday, and *Der Rosenkavalier*, performed on Saturday, July 1.

Directed by Olivia Fuchs with design by Niki Turner,

the new production of *Der Rosenkavalier* will take audiences on a passionate journey to 1911 Vienna. Celebrated soprano Rebecca Evans will be making a role debut in the iconic role of The Marschallin. The revival of *Die Fledermaus* will also transport audiences to early 1900s Vienna in a production that revels in frivolity and fancy frocks at a masquerade ball.

Completing the trio of operas is Puccini classic *Madam Butterfly*, on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. Joachim Herz's production will be directed by Sarah Crisp and conducted by Andrew Greenwood. *Madam Butterfly* tells the heartbreaking tale of Cio-Cio-San's love and loss at the hands of her US naval officer, Pinkerton. Linda Richardson returns to share the role of Cio-Cio-San with Judith Howarth. Paul Charles Clarke sings the role of Pinkerton. See [birminghamhippodrome.com](http://birminghamhippodrome.com) or call 0844 338 5000.

## Dude returns to roll away the years



As leader of 1970s British rock legends Mott the Hoople, Ian Hunter is widely revered as one of rock 'n' roll's most compelling performers and most articulate songwriters.

As author of such anthems as *All The Way From Memphis* and the voice of such landmark albums as *All The Young Dudes*, he remains a hero to fellow musicians and fans around the world. He is bringing his *Rant Band* for a concert at Birmingham Town Hall on Sunday.

Hunter, pictured, joined Mott The Hoople in 1969. With Mott, he had recorded four albums – Mott The Hoople, *Mad Shadows*, *Wildlife*

and *Brain Capers* by the time they hit international stardom with the glam rock anthem, the David Bowie penned *All The Young Dudes*.

The band's success continued with Mott and The Hoople, between them containing the hits *All The Way From Memphis*, *Honoloochie Boogie*, *Roll Away The Stone* and *The Golden Age Of Rock 'n' Roll*.

Mott disbanded in 1974 and Ian moved to New York, starting a celebrated solo career. The albums *Ian Hunter*, *All American Alien Boy*, *Overnight Angels*, *You're Never Alone With A Schizophrenic*, *Short Back 'n' Sides* and *All Of The Good Ones Are Taken*.

Barry Manilow took one of Ian's most personal songs, *Ships into the charts*.

Ian took time out to produce in the '80s, returning in 1993, since then Ian has produced what some critics feel to be his best work, *The Artful Dodger*, *Rant*, *Shrunken Heads*, *Man Overboard* and *When I'm President*.

Mott The Hoople have reformed twice and Hunter played two successful tours with them. But, whilst proud of his past achievements, he would prefer to focus on the future. Hunter said: "For the first 15 years of my life, I had no idea what I was here for. But then Elvis came out and it was, 'Oh, that's what I am here for'."

"Rock 'n' roll gave me a great life and I don't know what I would have done without it. It's all I know."

## Old and young punk rockers in action

Pick of the gigs include punk veterans Dead Kennedys at Birmingham's O2 Academy on Monday, and controversial young punks Cabbage across the city at Digbeth's O2 Institute tomorrow (Friday).

Joy Division are one of the influences on Birmingham band Semantics, who top a four band bill in a home town gig at the Sunflower Lounge on Saturday. Former W.A.S.P guitarist Chris Holmes brings his band Mean Man to the Robin 2 in Bilston on Tuesday, and on Wednesday Ritchie Blackmore's Rainbow are at the Genting Arena.

Wolverhampton's Slade Rooms next weekend hosts local metal band Our World Below, topping a five band bill on Friday, July 1. Up-and-coming country music duo American Young bring a flavour of modern Nashville to the Slade Rooms on July 2.

## Mirga takes the baton for opera

Acclaimed young Lithuanian conductor and Music Director of the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, Mirga Gražinytė-Tyla, pictured, will be holding the baton when Mozart opera *Idemeneo* is performed at Symphony Hall, Birmingham, at 5pm on Saturday.

English tenor Jeremy Ovenden will be in the title role as the King of Crete in a story from ancient Greece. Sung in Italian with English surtitles, the three hour performance will include two intervals.



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CHOICE



Stephen Fry

**Britain's Great Gay Buildings (Channel 4, 8pm)**  
Stephen Fry is joined by seven fellow celebrities to mark the 50th anniversary of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act, which decriminalised private homosexual acts between men. The group explores the histories of several buildings that became cornerstones in the battle for gay rights in the UK. The Rev Richard Coles revisits the hedonistic past of London's Heaven Nightclub, while Mary Portas visits Shibden Hall near Halifax to celebrate the life of 19th-century lesbian heiress Anne Lister. Craig Revel Horwood investigates Britain's drag scene at the Royal Vauxhall Tavern, and Simon Callow tells the story of Oscar Wilde's downfall at the Old Bailey. Plus, Rikki Beadle-Blair visit the Theatre Royal Haymarket.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Food & Drink. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Tennis: Queen's. The AEGON Championships. **5.35** BBC News. **5.45** Regional Programme. **5.55** Pointless Celebrities. (R)  
**6.45** **Doctor Who.** Friendship drives the Doctor to make the rashest decision of his many lives when, trapped on board a giant spaceship, caught in the event horizon of a black hole, he witnesses the death of someone he pledged to protect. For a man well-accustomed to bending the laws of time to his advantage, now every passing second seems to be leading to an awful loss beyond even his control. However, he remains determined to overcome the odds and redeem his mistake, but prevailing against time itself could be one battle too many for the Time Lord.  
**7.30** **Pitch Battle.** The choral music contest continues, as Mel Giedroyc gives another diverse selection of choirs a chance to compete in head-to-head knock-out challenges. The groups will be asked to demonstrate their signature style with a "showstopper" performance, before moving on to test their mettle in a "riff-off" that sees them competing opposite a rival outfit. Another guest adjudicator takes a seat on the panel, to help resident judges Gareth Malone and Kelis to deliver their expert opinions on each performance.  
**9.00** **Casualty.** Alicia's concerns about Ethan escalate when she discovers he hasn't been sleeping, and has instead been keeping watch outside of Scott Ellison's flat. Elsewhere, Iain and Lily begin the day with a spring in their step after their night together, but cracks begin to show in their blossoming relationship when they disagree over how to deal with an elderly couple hospitalised following a botched suicide pact. Plus, sparks fly between Connie and Sam.  
**9.50** **Mrs Brown's Boys.** Cathy goes to extreme lengths to impress her psychologist boyfriend. (R)  
**10.20** **BBC News;** Weather; National Lottery Update.  
**10.40** **Film: The Proposal.** (2009)  
**12.25** Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**12.30** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.40** **Film:** Love Affair, (1939) Romantic drama, starring Charles Boyer and Irene Dunne. **8.05** **Film:** Odette, (1950) The French widow of an English soldier becomes a British spy during the Nazi occupation of her country. Fact-based Second World War drama, starring Anna Neagle and Trevor Howard. **10.00** Monty Hall's Great Irish Escape. (R) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **12.30** Great British Menu. (R) **1.00** **Film:** Splash! (1984) A mermaid falls for a New Yorker she saved from drowning and assumes human form so she can follow him onto dry land. Romantic fantasy comedy, starring Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah. **2.45** Escape to the Country. (R) **3.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **4.30** Flog It! (R) **5.30** Glastonbury 2017.  
**7.00** **Supercharged Otters: Natural World.** Cameraman Charlie Hamilton James has been captivated by otters for the last 25 years and has filmed them more than anyone else. Now, through the eyes of three river orphaned otters, he sets out to reveal their survival secrets and exactly why he believes these creatures are so special. (R)  
**8.00** **Glastonbury 2017.** Clara Amfo and Nick Grimshaw present highlights from the Pyramid Stage, where pop starlet Katy Perry makes her debut Glastonbury appearance today. Plus, the best performances from across the festival ground throughout the second day, and another selection of bespoke acoustic music.  
**9.00** **Glastonbury 2017.** Clara Amfo and Jo Whaley present live, uninterrupted coverage of this evening's headline set by Foo Fighters. Fans and attendees will both be hoping frontman Dave Grohl will be taking good care of himself before travelling to Worthy Farm this weekend; and he and his band were due to perform as a headline act at the 2015 festival, but were forced to pull out after Grohl broke his leg during an on-stage stunt at a concert in Sweden. Beyond the US rockers' set, Lauren Laverne and Huw Stephens will be touring the festival grounds to take in a few more acoustic performances.  
**1.00** **Film:** Goodbye First Love. (2011) Romantic drama, with Lola Creton and Sebastian Urzendowsky. **2.45** This is BBC Two. Preview of upcoming programmes from BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** ITV Racing: The Opening Show. **10.25** Judge Rinder. (R) **11.25** **Film:** Horrid Henry: The Movie. (2011) **1.15** ITV News; Weather. **1.30** ITV Racing Live: Royal Ascot. Coverage of stage five of the prestigious festival.  
**6.00** **Regional Programme;** Weather. **6.10** **ITV News;** Weather.  
**6.25** **Catchphrase: Celebrity Special.** New series. Stephen Mulhern returns with the guessing game-show in which three contestants are challenged to figure out which familiar lie behind a series of animated clues. For this opening episode, Stephen is joined by a trio of celebrity contestants: Diversity's Ashley Banjo, Benidorm actor Jake Canuso and TV presenter Lorraine Kelly, who all stay in the game right through to the Super Catchphrase round.  
**7.30** **The Voice Kids.** The junior version of the singing talent contest reaches its third round, as Emma Willis invites more youngsters between the ages of eight and 14 to take to the stage and prove their talent. Coaches Will.i.am, Danny Jones and Pixie Lott continue to seek new recruits to fill up their teams, while the kids themselves will have their eyes on the £30,000 prize – and the a family holiday to Disney/and Paris.  
**9.00** **Film: Casino Royale.** (2006) James Bond achieves his '00' status and is dispatched on the trail of Le Chiffre, an international criminal financing terrorist organisations around the world. Bond's investigation leads to a casino in Montenegro, where he takes part in a high-stakes poker game in a bid to bankrupt Le Chiffre and put an end to his plans. Spy thriller, directed by Martin Campbell and starring Daniel Craig in his first outing as 007, with Eva Green, Mads Mikkelsen, Judi Dench and Giancarlo Giannini.  
**11.50** **ITV News;** Weather.  
**12.10** The Chase. (R) **1.05** Jackpot247. **3.00** Who's Doing the Dishes? (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.10** Transylvania Ultra Marathon. **6.35** Motor Sport: Mini Challenge. **7.05** Ironman: Staffordshire. **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **10.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Practice 3 Live. **12.25** F1 Meets Toto Wolff. **12.55** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Qualifying Live. Coverage from the Baku City Circuit (Start-time 2.00pm). **3.30** World's Most Expensive Cars. **4.35** A Place in the Sun: Winter Sun. (R) **5.35** Kirstie and Phil's Love It or List It. (R)  
**6.00** **Channel 4 News.**  
**7.00** **The Autistic Gardener.** Alan Gardner visits Bristol, where Ig, Joe and their three children need some help clearing their 100-foot garden of weeds and waste. With a budget of £15,000, the professional gardener sets out to restore some order to their overgrown, chaotic plot. He also visits the gardens at The Getty Centre in Los Angeles, where he discovers a geometrical layout is the key to the design.  
**8.00** **Britain's Great Gay Buildings.** Stephen Fry, Richard Coles, Mary Portas, Craig Revel Horwood, Simon Callow, Rikki Beadle-Blair, Liz Carr and Waheed Ali explore buildings that helped define gay rights in the UK.  
**9.00** **Film: Identity Thief.** (2013) A con-woman acquires an executive's credit card numbers, and lives a life of luxury at his expense. The outraged victim sets out on a mission to track down the fraudster and bring her to justice personally – resulting in them travelling on a disastrous road trip across America together. Comedy, with Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, Jon Favreau and Amanda Peet.  
**11.15** **Film: The Purge.** (2013) The American government responds to rising crime rates by introducing an annual 12-hour period when all laws are suspended, so the people can get violent impulses out of their system. A family takes shelter at home, but when a stranger turns up asking for help, the mayhem outside soon catches up with them. Horror, starring Lena Headey and Ethan Hawke.  
**12.50** Ramsay's Hotel Hell. (R) **1.40** Holyoaks. **3.50** Ackley Bridge. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.50** Animals Make You Laugh Out Loud. (R) **11.15** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.15** Police Interceptors: Deadly Pursuit. (R) **1.15** The Great British Benefits Handout. (R) **2.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door. (R) **3.15** The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door: When Neighbours Attack. (R) **4.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away Special. **5.10** Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away. (R)  
**6.05** **5 News Weekend.**  
**6.10** **Funnies Ever Toddler Tantrums.** A collection of comic clips featuring youngsters that have taken the internet by storm, featuring sassy six-year-old Johanna belting out her version of Aretha Franklin's Respect. (R)  
**7.00** **Blind Date.** Paul O'Grady's revival of the dating game show continues, as a former member of the Royal Air Force embarks on a mission to find her very own Prince Charming, and a male swimwear model takes his pick of three single ladies. Plus, Paul catches up with last week's matches to discover whether their first dates were a success.  
**8.00** **Before They Were Stars.** Part two of two. Dale Winton revisits another selection of archive clips that immortalised popular celebrities' first, ill-advised forays into the cut-throat world of showbusiness.  
**9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.  
**10.05** **The Miranda Hart Story.** Profile of the comedian, examining her early years performing at the Edinburgh Festival before reaching stardom with her successful sitcom and dramatic role in Call the Midwife. (R)  
**11.25** **Lip Sync Battle UK: Manfred v Keegan.** Melanie Brown and Professor Green present the musical game show as comedian Jason Manfred and actress Michelle Keegan go head to head lip-synching to a hit song. (R)  
**11.50** **Access.**  
**12.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Gold Digger and Proud. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Toots & The Maytals & Liam Gallagher at Glastonbury 2017. The Jamaican musical group's performance earlier this afternoon. **8.00** The National at Glastonbury 2017. The US indie-rockers' performance, live at the Pyramid Stage. **9.00** Father John Misty at Glastonbury 2017. Live coverage of the American singer-songwriter's set this evening. **10.00** The Jacksons at Glastonbury 2017. Live coverage of the popular funk-pop family band's set at the West Halls stage. **11.45** Top of the Pops: 1984 **12.20** Northern Soul: Living for the Weekend **1.20** Classic Soul at the BBC **2.20** Otis Redding: Soul Ambassador **3.20** Close  
**ITV2**  
**12.00** Take Me Out **1.10** Catchphrase **1.50** You've Been Framed! Goes Wild! **2.50** **Film:** Arthur (2011) **3.50** FYI Daily **3.55** **Film:** Arthur (2011) **5.00** **Film:** Freaky Friday (2003) **6.05** FYI Daily **6.10** **Film:** Freaky Friday (2003) **6.55** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **7.55** FYI Daily **8.00** **Film:** Step Up 2: The Streets (2008) **9.00** Love Island: The Weekly Hot list **10.00** Celebrity Juice: Halloween Special **10.50** Family Guy **12.20** American Dad! **1.20** **Film:** Piranha (2010) **2.20** FYI Daily **2.25** **Film:** Piranha (2010) **2.50** Teleshopping **5.50** ITV2 Nightscreen  
**ITV3**  
**11.20** **Film:** Murder on the Orient Express (1974) **12.55** Lewis **2.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Midsomer Murders **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Law & Order: UK **1.55** On the Buses **2.20** ITV3 Nightscreen **2.30** Teleshopping  
**ITV4**  
**1.45** **Film:** The Great Outdoors (1988) **2.45** FYI Daily **2.50** **Film:** The Great Outdoors (1988) **3.30** Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. **6.15** Football Rivalries **6.30** Storage Wars **6.55** The Sweeney **8.00** River Monsters **9.05** **Film:** Jaws 2 (1978) **10.05** FYI Daily **10.10** **Film:** Jaws 2 (1978) **11.25** **Film:** Jaws 3 (1983) **12.25** FYI Daily **12.30** **Film:** Jaws 3 (1983) **1.30** The Football Mavericks **2.25** Tommy Cooper **2.50** ITV4 Nightscreen **3.00** Teleshopping  
**E4**  
**12.30** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **12.45** **Film:** Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **2.30** The Goldbergs **5.00** The Big Bang Theory **9.00** **Film:** Fast & Furious 5 (2011) **11.35** Gogglebox **1.45** Tattoo Fixers **2.45** Rude Tube **3.35** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD **4.20** How I Met Your Mother **5.00** Rude(ish) Tube

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## CHOICE



Aidan Turner

**Poldark (BBC1, 9pm)**

Ross is ordered to leave Roscoff under threat of execution. He travels with Tholly to meet his contact in France, but finds information about Dwight's fate comes at a high price. Sam leads a congregation of methodists in protest outside the church – only to face broken promises from George, who revokes their lease on the meeting house, which leads them to turn to Elizabeth for help. Geoffrey Charles has some words of advice for Drake, who has shared a moment of intimacy on the beach with Morwenna. Aidan Turner, Ellise Chappell, Harry Richardson, Sean Gilder, Tom York, Jack Farthing, Gabriella Wilde, Heida Reed and Harry Marcus star.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Regional Programme. **12.15** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News. Weather. (R) **1.15** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **2.00** Tannis: Queen's. **5.10** Points of View. **5.25** Songs of Praise.

**6.00** **Celebrity Mastermind.** John Humphrys tests Shappi Khorsandi, Chris Stark, Piers Taylor and Lee Pearson on Charlie Chaplin, Scott Mills, Bob Dylan and British birds. (R)

**6.30** **BBC News.**

**6.50** **Regional Programme.**

**7.00** **Countryfile.** Sean Fletcher reports from Carmarthenshire, where he meets an expert on birds of prey in Carmarthenshire who uses drones designed to look like birds to train falcons to hunt. He takes a look behind the scenes in the workshop where they are built and visits a breeding unit for peregrine falcon chicks. Plus, a selection of reports from the series featuring working animals.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** The roving team values more decorative objects and rarities belonging to the public.

**9.00** **Poldark.** Ross is ordered to leave Roscoff under threat of execution. He travels with Tholly to meet his contact in France, but finds information about Dwight's fate comes at a high price. Sam leads a congregation of methodists in protest outside the church – only to face broken promises from George, who revokes their lease on the meeting house, which leads them to turn to Elizabeth for help. Geoffrey Charles has some words of advice for Drake, who has shared a moment of intimacy on the beach with Morwenna.

**10.00** **BBC News.**

**10.20** **Regional Programme.**

**10.30** **Tracey Breaks the News.** Tracey Ullman returns with a one-off political and topical offering, filmed close to transmission and broadcast in the aftermath of the general election. (R)

**11.00** **Live at the Apollo.** Leading performers on the stand-up circuit share their light-hearted views on modern life. (R)

**11.30** **Film: The Spectacular Now.** (2013)

**1.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **1.05** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** A to Z of TV Gardening. (R) **6.45** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.30** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Countryfile. (R) **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Great British Menu. (R) **1.30** Great British Menu. (R) **2.00** Sailing: America's Cup Highlights. **2.00** Money for Nothing. (R) **2.45** Garden Rescue. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.15** Natural World. (R) **5.10** Flog It! (R)

**6.00** **Glastonbury 2017.** Mark Radcliffe and Lauren Laverne present coverage of the afternoon's highlights, including the Bee Gee and classic songwriter Barry Gibb's performance at the Sunday Afternoon Legends slot. Plus, Nile Rodgers and his disco band Chic perform many of their hits at the Pyramid Stage, alongside a selection of acoustic sets from throughout the day, live reports from around the site, and a look forward to the final headline, pop star Ed Sheeran.

**9.00** **Glastonbury 2017.** Clara Amfo and Huw Stephens present live coverage of global pop star Ed Sheeran's performance at the Pyramid Stage on the third and final night of coverage from the festival at Worthy Farm, marking the singer's debut as a Glastonbury headliner. Following Ed Sheeran's live performance, Jo Whalley, Mark Radcliffe and Huw Stephens take over the presenting reins on the BBC Two sofa and reminisce on the best of the final day of the Festival, looking back at their own personal highlights from across the weekend. Last in the series.

**12.00** **Film: Up There.** (2012) A spirit is given the job of escorting the recently deceased to the afterlife, when all he wants to do is cross over himself. He is partnered with an annoyingly cheerful sidekick for his latest assignment, but they manage to lose the soul in question and face a frantic search through a British seaside town. Comic fantasy, starring Burn Gorman, Kate O'Flynn and Aymen Hamdouch. **1.15** Sign Zone: Question Time. David Dimbleby chairs the debate from Plymouth, with a panel of politicians and other guests facing topical questions from the audience. (R) **2.15** Holy City. As Jasmine begins to investigate the past, she makes a shocking discovery, while Dom takes a dim view when new friend Lofy appears insensitive. (R) **3.15** This is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. **6.10** Grizzly Tales for Gruesome Kids. (R) **6.20** Sooty. (R) **6.30** Signed Stories: Share a Story. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **6.50** Dino Dan: Trek's Adventures. (R) **7.00** Oddbods. (R) **7.05** Super 4. (R) **7.20** Marvel Avengers Assemble. (R) **7.45** Thunderbirds Are Go. (R) **8.10** Ben 10. **8.25** ITV News. **8.30** Weekend. **9.25** Britain's Best Walks with Julia Bradbury. (R) **10.00** Peston on Sunday. **11.00** Love Your Garden. (R) **12.00** ITV News.

Weather. **12.10** Film: King Ralph. (1991) Comedy, starring John Goodman. **2.00** The Voice Kids. (R) **3.30** Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Germany v Cameroon (Kick-off 4.00pm).

**6.10** **ITV News: Weather.**

**6.20** **Film: The Amazing Spider-Man 2.** (2014) The webslinging hero battles a powerful new enemy when a downtrodden engineer develops lethal electrical powers, which he unleashes on those he believes have betrayed him. As if that wasn't enough to keep him busy, he faces an even greater threat when he is reunited with an unstable old friend who has been charged with a sinister mission by his dying father, leading to a series of tense confrontations that threaten to change his life for ever. Superhero adventure sequel, starring Andrew Garfield, Emma Stone and Dane DeHaan.

**9.00** **The Loch.** The police hold a press conference to appeal for information about Jonjo, and Smilie hopes to take the opportunity to reassure the public that they have nothing to fear and prevent news of the human heart found by the lake from spreading further. However, his plans are disrupted by Blake, who reveals everything and shares his theory that the community is being terrorised by a serial killer. An unexpected discovery is made outside the village hall during a town meeting set up to try and identify the killer.

**10.00** **ITV News: Weather.**

**10.20** **Peston on Sunday.** Political magazine, presented by Robert Peston. Allegra Stratton presents a guide to the latest issues on social media. (R)

**11.15** **Lethal Weapon.** (R)

**12.15** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK.

**3.50** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **4.40** ITV Nightscreen.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.35** 3rd Rock from the Sun. (R) **7.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Frasier. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Eating Well with Hemsley + Hemsley. **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **1.00** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Build-Up. Previewing the eighth round of the season. **1.35** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live. Coverage from the Baku City Circuit (Start-time 2.00pm). **4.10** Formula 1 Azerbaijan Grand Prix Live Reaction. A review of the eighth round of the season. **5.00** Guy Martin: Last Flight of the Vulcan Bomber. (R)

**6.35** **Channel 4 News.**

**7.00** **Grand Designs.** Boat enthusiast James Strangeways invites Kevin McCloud to survey progress on the construction of his new home, which his architect nephew Ben Hebblethwaite has designed to be as "un-houselike" as possible. James has spent the past 35 years travelling the canals and waterways of Britain, and despite never liking houses, has decided now is the time to put down roots on dry land. Ben hoped a home standing on stilts above a marsh, and incorporating ship-like qualities such as a keel-shaped roof, will be enough to satisfy his boat-mad uncle. However, Ben's contractor goes into liquidation a few months into the project, taking £87,000 of the £300,000 budget, and when James decides to make a few tweaks to the design, alarm bells begin to ring for the young architect. (R)

**8.00** **Great Canal Journeys: India.** Part two of two. Timothy West and Prunella Scales explore the Brahmaputra river, where they follow an old trade route, meet a community of monks and take a ride on an elephant.

**9.00** **The Handmaid's Tale.** Offred receives a surprising proposition from Serena Joy that brings back memories of the unconventional way she met her husband.

**10.10** **Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown.** Joe Lycett and Michelle Wolf join regulars Jon Richardson and Sean Lock for the words-and-numbers game, with Adam Riches in Dictionary Corner. (R)

**11.15** **Film: The Last Days on Mars.** (2013) Sci-fi horror.

**1.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. (R) **2.00** The Last Leg. (R) **2.55** KOTV Boxing Weekly.

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Pip Ahoy! **6.10** Mr. Men. (R) **6.20** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.30** Peppa Pig. (R) **6.35** Wisper. (R) **6.40** Paw Patrol. (R) **6.55** Bob the Builder. (R) **7.05** Fireman Sam. (R) **7.20** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.25** Oily the Little White Van. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Blaze and the Monster Machines. (R) **8.05** Noddy: Toyland Detective. (R) **8.20** Wisper. (R) **8.35** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.50** Shimmer and Shine. (R) **9.10** Little Princess. (R) **9.25** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.35** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.45** Peppa Pig. (R) **9.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **10.10** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. (R) **10.45** The Gadget Show. (R) **11.30** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** Film: Jack and the Beanstalk. (2010) Fantasy adventure, starring Colin Firth. **3.10** Film: Did You Hear about the Morgans? (2009) Romantic comedy, starring Hugh Grant and Sarah Jessica Parker. **5.15** Film: Made of Honor. (2008) Romantic comedy, starring Patrick Dempsey and Michelle Monaghan.

**7.00** **Cricket on 5.** England v South Africa. Action from the third T20 international of the three-match series, which took place at The SSE SWALEC in Cardiff.

**8.00** **That's So 1994.** The events of 1994, when the Church of England ordained its first female priests, the first UK National Lottery draw took place, and the Channel Tunnel opened. (R)

**8.55** **5 News Weekend.**

**9.00** **Big Brother.** Daily round-up of highlights, revealing how the housemates are getting on under the all-seeing eye of Big Brother, featuring the latest tasks, games, arguments, laughs, diary room visits and bedroom chat-chat. Narrated by Marcus Bentley.

**10.05** **OMG! My Barbie Body.** New series. Documentary series about people who have undergone extreme cosmetic surgery, beginning with three women who have tried to turn themselves into Barbie dolls.

**11.00** **Film: Role Models.** (2008) After a brush with the law, two irresponsible men have to look after troubled kids as community service. Comedy, with Paul Rudd, Sean William Scott and Christopher Mintz-Plasse.

**1.00** SuperCasino. **3.10** Our Dream Hotel. (R) **4.00** Britain's Greatest Bridges. (R) **4.50** Great Artists. (R) **5.15** Wildlife SOS. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Rag'n'Bone Man and Shaggy at Glastonbury 2017. Coverage of the singers' performances at the festival. **8.00** Special Guests at Glastonbury 2017. Special appearances at the John Peel Stage. **9.00** Operation Crossbow. **10.00** Storyville: Russia's Toughest Prison – The Condemned. **11.20** Horizon: Antarctica Ice Station Rescue. **12.20** The Comet's Tale. **1.20** Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel. **2.20** David Attenborough's Zoo Quest in Colour. **3.50** Close.

**ITV2**  
**11.55** The Voice Kids. **1.25** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **2.25** FYI Daily. **2.30** Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **3.10** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **4.10** FYI Daily. **4.15** Film: The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas (2000) **5.00** Film: Flubber (1997) **6.05** FYI Daily. **6.10** Film: Flubber (1997) **6.50** Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) **7.55** Film: The Wedding Planner (2001) **9.00** Love Island. **10.00** Love Island: Afternoon. **11.00** Family Guy. **12.30** American Dad! **1.30** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records. **2.00** Planet's Funniest Animals. **2.25** Teleshopping. **5.55** ITV2 Nightscreen

**ITV3**

**11.50** The Darling Buds of May. **1.05** Hidden Treasure. **3.10** Agatha Christie's Marple. **5.15** Foyle's War. **7.15** The Road to Coronation Street. **9.00** Joanna Lumley's Japan. **10.00** Law & Order: UK. **12.00** Wire in the Blood. **3.35** May the Best House Win. **5.15** On the Buses. **5.40** ITV3 Nightscreen

**ITV4**

**11.10** Pawn Stars. **12.35** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **1.35** FYI Daily. **1.40** Film: Rio Bravo (1959) **3.30** Live 2017 FIFA Confederations Cup. Chile v Australia (Kick-off 4.00pm). **6.00** Fierce. **7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. **8.00** River Monsters. **9.05** Film: The Great Train Robbery (1978) **10.10** FYI Daily. **10.15** Film: The Great Train Robbery (1978) **11.20** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **12.25** FYI Daily. **12.30** Film: The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford (2007) **2.30** Tommy Cooper. **3.00** Teleshopping

**E4**

**12.55** Film: Tooth Fairy (2010) **3.00** The Big Bang Theory. **8.00** The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special. **9.00** Marvel's Agents of SHIELD. **10.00** Film: Underworld: Rise of the Lycans (2009) **11.50** Gogglebox. **12.55** Rude Tube. **2.00** Out of 10 Cats

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Real Murders: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery, Channel 5, 3.20pm**  
Librarian Aurora Teagarden is embroiled in a murder case when a member of her book reading group is killed. Mystery, with Candace Cameron Bure. (2015)

**TUESDAY**  
**Fatal Justice, Channel 5, 3.20pm**  
A woman shopping in a convenience store witnesses a robbery in which the owner is killed and her niece seriously injured, ending up a paraplegic. The shopper, Karen, believes she recognises one of the robbers, but he is released thanks to a false alibi. Tortured by the memories of the murder of her brother – a crime that was never solved – Karen embarks on a trail of revenge against the perpetrators. Drama, starring Cynthia Watros. (2012)



Entrapment, Friday, BBC1, 11.25pm

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Millionaire Mystery: The Ultimate Gift, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A man has to complete a series of odd tasks set by billionaire grandfather in order to receive his inheritance from his billionaire grandfather, with no idea the challenges will change his life completely. Family drama, starring James Garner. (2006)

**THURSDAY**  
**Left to Die: The Sandra & Tammi Chase Story, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
A woman takes a holiday in Ecuador, but ends up arrested for drug trafficking and incarcerated in a brutal prison. Her daughter devotes herself to getting her released, facing a lengthy battle with bureaucracy and a foreign legal system she knows nothing of. Fact-based prison drama, starring Barbara Hershey. (2012)

**FRIDAY**  
**Entrapment, BBC1, 11.25pm**  
An elusive professional art thief suspected of stealing a priceless painting is pursued by an insurance agent. However, instead of bringing the criminal to book, she teams up with him to plot the robbery of a lifetime – although neither is sure the other can be trusted. Crime thriller, starring Sean Connery, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Ving Rhames. (1999)

Richard opens up the maze to more famous faces

Many viewers couldn't contain their excitement when it was announced that this puzzle-based TV show was winging its way back to our screens. It follows last year's successful Stand Up To Cancer special, hosted by Stephen Merchant. Rumours of a full-time TV comeback first surfaced last year, with former Doctor Who David Tennant tipped to host. However, it was Richard Ayoade who was eventually announced as the new Maze Master for the series reboot. The comedian first found fame through his roles in The Mighty Boosh, Garth Marenghi's Darkplace and The IT Crowd, but has recently become an accomplished presenter, fronting factual shows Travel Man and Gadget Man. The Rocky Horror Picture Show writer and star Richard O'Brien was the first and most recognised host of The Crystal Maze, presenting the show during its most successful period from 1990 to 1993. He was known for his kooky and quirky demeanour during the show's games, including his Victorian sense of fashion and playing the harmonica while he waited for contestants to complete the tasks. Edward Tudor-Pole then took over and ran proceedings before the show ended in 1995. For those who haven't seen the show before, contestants of The Crystal Maze are challenged to navigate themselves through a labyrinth of tasks. They pick up time crystals as they pass through each of the four zones – Aztec, Medieval, Industrial and Futuristic – which they need to use in the final mission. The team of five contestants must then battle in the Crystal Dome to win a cash prize. There will be 20 hour-long episodes in this run, all taking place in a specially-built 30,000 sq ft set in Bristol, created by original Crystal Maze designer James Dillon. In last week's first celebrity special, Ore Oduba, Vicky Pattison, Alex Brooker, Lydia Bright and

Louie Spence were the brave contenders taking on the challenge. Tonight, TV presenter Steve Jones, Gogglebox star and queen of the 1m A Celebrity jungle Scarlett Moffatt, former F1 racing driver David Coulthard, and TOWIE's Joey Essex, join team captain, model and TV personality Jodie Kidd in the four fantastical zones, attempting to win enough crystals that will earn them precious seconds in the Crystal Dome to win prizes for Stand Up to Cancer. Watch out too for comedy actors Adam Buxton, known for numerous panel shows and podcasts, and Jessica Hynes, from Spaced and W1A, who will be making cameo appearances. Buxton has his own character, a disembodied head called Jarhead who lives in the Futuristic Zone, and asks contestants to answer riddles. Hynes, meanwhile, plays The Knight, guardian of the Medieval Zone, who will present a major challenge to any foolhardy crystal collector wanting to progress.



The Crystal Maze: Celebrity Special, Friday, Channel 4, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Loaded Channel 4, 10pm**  
This new comedy drama about four friends who become rich overnight after selling their video game starring a cat for £246 million has divided both critics and viewers. However the adventures of troubled love-sick Josh (Jim Howick), flash boy Leon (Samuel Anderson), guilt-ridden public schoolboy Ewan (Jonny Sweet) and likeable ex-junkie Watto Nick Helm may still have start-up potential. Rather than being about how people would spend that type of money if they made it, Loaded has more depth and is all about the guilt, pain and torment that such wealth brings. The first series ends tonight with the gang in disarray, as Leon tries to bring about a temporary reconciliation. But the quartet have to decide what is more important – the money, the company, or staying together.

**TUESDAY**  
**The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies Channel 5, 8pm**  
A new, 16-part run begins tonight, and kicks-off in heartbreaking fashion with the story of Timmy, an elderly collie cross who is discovered in a house surrounded by his own mess. To make matters even worse, he has a huge and painful tumour on his

face - luckily for him, RSPCA inspector Anthony refuses to give up on Timmy, who is going to need lots of care and attention. Anthony's fellow inspector, Helen, comes face-to-face with stroppy shih-tzu Archie; she hopes his grumpy mood will lighten once the matted fur obscuring his eyes and ears is trimmed back to a manageable length. There's also an insight into the fate of two adorable French bulldog puppies abandoned in a box in Pontypool Park, and Davies himself pops up in a bid to inspire someone to adopt an unwanted animal.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Watchdog Live BBC1, 8pm**  
New series. Matt Allwright, Steph McGovern and Nikki Fox return with a new series of topical reports and investigations, live from the programme's new home in Salford. In this episode, the hosts report on the alarming concerns surrounding smart meters in residential properties. Elsewhere, the team embark on an undercover investigation into a company that is training their new recruits to deliberately

target elderly customers with products that they do not need, often costing thousands of pounds.

**THURSDAY**  
**The Supertvet Channel 4, 8pm**  
There was a time when many pets and animals would be put down due to injury, or left to suffer. Thankfully, pioneering veterinarian Dr Noel Fitzpatrick will always go the extra mile to help a creature achieve a better quality of life. This week he uses his talents to treat a puppy called Poppy, which has difficulties with walking, and a lurcher called Dylan needs help with a collapsed joint. The programme also features a one-year-old cat that was hit by a car on its first



The Dog Rescuers with Alan Davies, Tuesday, Channel 5, 8pm

venture outside the house, leaving it requiring emergency treatment.

**FRIDAY**  
**Great British Menu: The Finals BBC2, 8pm**  
To some cynical viewers, the chance to cook a meal may not seem like much of a prize for a professional chef. However, the climax of this year's Great British Menu isn't just any old dinner party – it's a Taste of Summer banquet to celebrate 140 years of Wimbledon. After making it through the regional heats and this week's finals, the winning chefs will now get a chance to present their dishes to guests including Wimbledon players and champions, as well as those who work hard behind the scenes. But will knowing the likes of Tim Henman and Judy Murray are about to tuck into their food inspire the chefs to serve their best ever cooking, or will the pressure in the kitchen get too much?

**The Secret World of Posh Pets ITV, 8pm**  
New series. People's high-end pampering of their pets, detailing the extent to which some wealthy individuals indulge their much-loved and respected animals.

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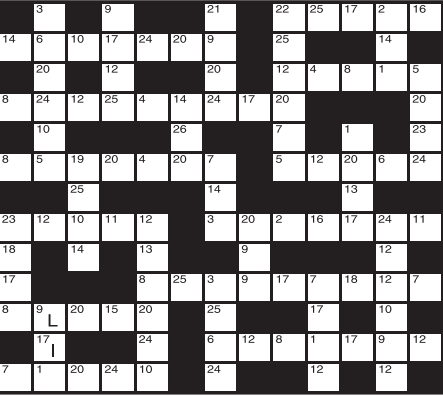


# BRAIN GYM

No.435

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
A	Q	B	S	Y	R	P	D	H	C	U	I	M
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
J	L	G	X	T	V	F	N	E	K	Z	W	O

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

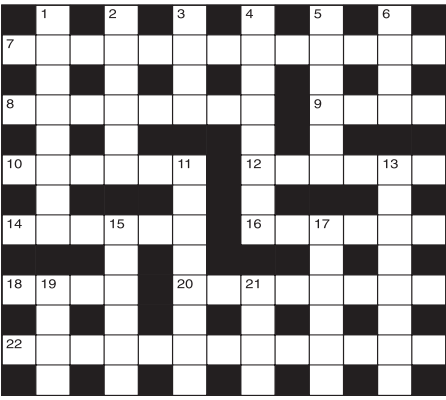
### Cryptic Clues:

#### Across

- Dancing in the air? (6,2,5)
- Did they get promotion after skating? (8)
- Is on charges (4)
- A call for a bite (6)
- Carry too far because of celebration (6)
- Dances to go higher (6)
- Soundly beat for writing rubbish about hothead (6)
- Top performer brings deserters back (4)
- Photo of a quick bit of marksmanship? (8)
- Be strongly inclined to be really intelligent (4,1,4,4)

#### Down

- The make-up of 444 on hands and knees (3,5)
- Urging birds to produce? (6)
- A bit of a nasty eyesore (4)
- Branch not hitting the target? (8)
- Mark time and refuse to work (6)
- Begin, though having nothing to write (4)
- Put Communist pointer to the East on the drawing board again? (8)
- Ignore the deduction from the bill (8)
- Student has no head for becoming the breadwinner (6)
- Take up the summary again? (6)
- Rip a sign of sadness (4)
- All right in the morning, though in a frenzy (4)



### Quick Clues:

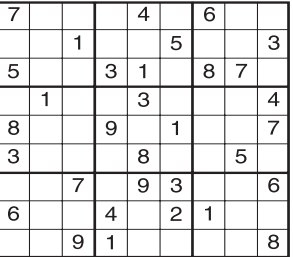
#### Across

- Counter-charge (13)
- Remoteness (8)
- Simple (4)
- Bewail (6)
- Really (6)
- Redress (6)
- Connect (6)
- Stylish (4)
- Uncommunicative (8)
- Upright (13)

#### Down

- Devote (8)
- Squirm (6)
- Portent (4)
- Second-rate (8)
- Be there (6)
- Fling (4)
- Alluring (8)
- Outside (8)
- Fill (6)
- Release (3,3)
- Regard (4)
- Manger (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid above so that every row and every column, every 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

4	5	8	1	2	7	6	3	9
6	7	2	8	3	9	5	1	4
9	3	1	6	4	5	7	2	8
7	6	4	9	1	3	8	5	2
2	1	5	4	6	8	9	7	3
3	8	9	7	5	2	4	6	1
5	2	7	3	9	4	1	8	6
8	4	6	2	7	1	3	9	5
1	9	3	5	8	6	2	4	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:  
 CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Bang; 8 Accountant; 9 Seraglio; 10 Rest; 12 Sweets; 14 Flinch; 15 Ardent; 17 Cogent; 18 Asti; 19 Eyesight; 21 Concoction; 22 Side. Down: 2 Afterwards; 3 Gala; 4 Scales; 5 Put off; 6 Starting; 7 Stet; 11 Second-hand; 13 Eyepiece; 16 Trench; 17 Cleric; 18 Arch; 20 Inns.  
 QUICK - Across: 1 Load; 8 Roundabout; 9 Disgrace; 10 Tray; 12 Betray; 14 Trusty; 15 Vassal; 17 Create; 18 Dear; 19 Sediment; 21 Politeness; 22 Tusk. Down: 2 Obliterate; 3 Drag; 4 Lunacy; 5 Advent; 6 Abstruse; 7 Stay; 11 Astuteness; 13 Restrain; 16 Lessen; 17 Cudgel; 18 Dupe; 20 Most.

## Quiz

- Of what is the farad a unit?
- Who created the Secret Seven?
- What do the letters LED stand for?
- Which of the Seven Wonders of the World was found underwater?
- What is the capital of Laos?
- Into which ocean does the Limpopo flow?
- What do we call a mammal of the genus Erinaceus?
- Of what is semiotics the study?
- What is hydrophobia more commonly called?
- Whose play Hedda Gabler was first produced in 1891?

### Last week's solutions:

Quiz: 1 SS; 2 Moose; 3 Nephew; 4 French Revolutionary; 5 £35,000; 6 Vanwall; 7 Laurel; 8 A computer language; 9 Parsley; 10 Senegal.

### Niner: PROVINCES

## Niner

Each number from 1 to 9 represents a different letter. Solve the clues and insert the letters in the appropriate squares to discover a word which uses all nine letters.

87943789215  
52915  
3568

gives a bird,  
gives a second bird,  
gives a third bird.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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# Taste of Greece – on your doorstep

WHETHER it was the warm sunny Sunday afternoon, the party in full swing all around us or simply the layout of the quaint and rustic-looking restaurant we were sat in. . . . Whatever it was, we all felt like we had been whisked off to the shores of the Mediterranean. We were in fact in a lovely little Greek restaurant, in the middle of Kingswinford, but with the beautifully-decorated walls and cafe-style layout.

We had driven passed Zendi, in High Street, on numerous occasions and felt it was time to give the place a go. Having never eaten at a Greek restaurant – but having looked at the menu online and realised the food appeared to tick pretty much all the boxes of ingredients we love – we were really looking forward to the experience.

## CELEBRATION

What we hadn't planned on was arriving in the middle of a celebration, with scores of happy people celebrating the birth of a newborn baby. But for us, however, the celebrations just added to the lovely atmosphere.

My wife, Kelly, had already taken a quick glance online to see what was on offer, but a little warning is needed here – they are not exactly the same, so she was a little disappointed to find the swordfish was no longer on offer. But there was still plenty to choose from.

Before the meals, drinks were ordered. My two-year-old daughter, Annabelle, had a simple blackcurrant squash while we decided to share a bottle of wine.

When the time came to order our food I was left with a dilemma. What to choose when everything looked and smelt so good. Zendi's chefs pride themselves on hand-picking their ingredients, which are delivered fresh, daily, to give customers 'a truly refreshing taste



The lamb kleftiko with potatoes and vegetables



Inside you're transported to white washed villas

of Greece'. Not knowing how big the portions would be – but knowing we were all very hungry – we ordered a starter each, which we shared.

First was the tzatziki, a famous Greek dip made with yoghurt, shredded cucumber, garlic and mint. It is one of my wife's favourites, plus Annabelle likes anything with yoghurt in it. Vegetarian dolmades, or yalantzi, was my preferred choice, vine leaves stuffed with rice, herbs, vegetable oil and onions, served with a tomato sauce. It was delicious.

My wife opted for the Snack of Crete, grilled crusty

bread rubbed with fresh garlic, served with tomatoes, spring onions, feta cheese, oregano and a dash of olive oil. With the mains we decided to try to eat and drink traditional dishes, I went for the classic kleftiko, fresh leg of lamb on the bone, braised slowly in an oven with fresh vegetables, herbs and red wine until tender.

Kelly decided on the stifado, lean cubes of beef and baby onions, cooked in a casserole and herbs until tender, served with rice or French fries.

There isn't a children's menu as such, instead the restaurant makes recommendations and brings out

smaller versions of the main meals on offer. Finally, it was time for the dessert.

We were all pretty full so we decided to share one – and it was a great decision.

We settled on the Zendi Galaktoboureko, a divine combination of creamy custard and flaky filo dough textures, all wrapped up in a cinnamon and citrus flavoured filling.

So, if you fancy being whisked away to the sights, sounds and flavours of Greece give Zendi a try.

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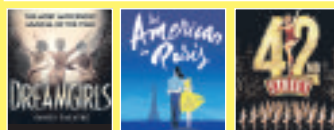
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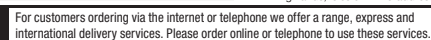
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**CRADLEY HEATH, Bishops Walk£1,350 pcm+Fees**  
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**HALESOWEN, Sandringham Road£1,350 pcm+Fees**  
A modern extended detached family home tucked away in this quiet cul de sac on the popular Lodgefield Estate in Halesowen. Featuring: entrance hallway, lounge with dining area, games room with patio doors leading to a very private large rear garden, stunning kitchen with appliances, downstairs w.c., 5 bedrooms, 2 en-suites plus family bathroom with shower, garage & driveway for 2/3 cars. EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Hagley Road£1,300 pcm+Fees**  
A superbly presented detached family home in prime central location close to all amenities and comes part furnished. Featuring: dining room with dining table and 6 chairs, delightful lounge with purple sofa x2 and footstool, conservatory with 1 grey sofa, large refitted stunning breakfast/kitchen with centre island & integrated appliances, 4 bedrooms with 2 double beds and mattresses, master en-suite, house bathroom, landscaped rear garden, garage & driveway, EPC: D



**HALESOWEN, Abberley Close£850 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely spacious 3/5 bedroom town house located in central Halesowen on the popular Huntlands estate comprising of: hallway, modern fitted kitchen, ground floor dining room/4th bedroom with en-suite shower room 1st floor with large living room, bedroom 3 study, lovely fitted bathroom with separate shower, 2nd floor has 2 double bedrooms & 1 single bedroom, walk-in wardrobe, private rear garden, driveway for 2 cars. Not to be missed! EPC: TBC



**AMBLECOTE, High Street £795 pcm+Fees**  
A fantastic opportunity to rent a new build home on a select development 'Crystal Gardens' features homes of 3 generous size bedrooms (master with en-suite) finished to an exceptional standard. This home features a spacious lounge, well appointed kitchen, downstairs WC, the 1st floor has 2 bedrooms & a family bathroom & on the 2nd floor there is a master bedroom with a large en-suite. 2 Allocated parking space for 2 cars, front & rear gardens. EPC: B



**HALESOWEN, COLLEY GATE, Beecher Street£695 pcm+Fees**  
A deceptively large unfurnished bungalow which is ideal for buses to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Birmingham and in the catchment area for Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, a large lounge, modern fitted kitchen, new bathroom with shower, Benefits include central heating, double glazing, driveway parking. NO ACCESS TO THE LOFT. EPC: D



**TIPTON, Leveson Drive £650 pcm+Fees**  
• UNDERGOING A RE-DECORATION • This extremely well maintained newly decorated terraced house has an excellent position on this sought after modern development within easy reach of local amenities. Briefly consists of entrance hallway, lounge, fitted kitchen with oven/hob, lovely conservatory, 3 good sized bedrooms, house bathroom with shower, rear garden, parking area for 2/3 cars. EPC: C



**CRADLEY HEATH, Waterfall Lane£625 pcm+Fees**  
Located within a short distance of Old Hill Train Station, a short drive from Black Heath and Cradley Heath, is this modern town house, featuring 3 bedrooms, 2 spacious lounges, house bathroom with shower, downstairs wc, small enclosed garden, driveway for 1 car and also benefits from an integrated garage. SHORT TERM LET ONLY. EPC: B



**ROWLEY REGIS, Lightfields Walk£625 pcm+Fees**  
A newly decorated 3 bedroom modern end terrace house with new carpets throughout. Entrance hallway, large lounge with laminate flooring, fitted kitchen, 3 good size bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Eco storage heating, pleasant rear garden with sheds & parking area. A must see property!! EPC: TBC



**ROWLEY REGIS, Spring Avenue£595 pcm+Fees**  
Well presented 2 bedroom semi detached house located in a convenient location close to bus & train links. The family home comprises of a pleasant front lounge, hallway to fitted kitchen with appliances, conservatory, lovely rear garden with summer house, 3 good size bedrooms, family bathroom, large corner plot with driveway parking. EPC: TBC



**HALESOWEN, Beecher Road£575 pcm+Fees**  
An unfurnished semi detached house, ideally located for local shops, buses and Colley Lane Primary School. Featuring 3 bedrooms, lounge, fitted dining kitchen, gas central heating, double glazing, downstairs bathroom, laundry room, en-suite shower room to master bedroom, driveway parking, front and rear gardens. A value for money property. EPC: D



**ERDINGTON, Park Approach£550 pcm+Fees**  
A ground floor 2 bedroom flat, being heated with electric storage heaters and located conveniently for Gravely Hill Railway Station. The accommodation which is access via a secure communal entrance briefly comprises a reception hall, two bedroom, bathroom with electric shower over, lounge / diner and fitted kitchen with dishwasher, electric over and fridge, communal parking is available, together with a secure garage.



**HALESOWEN, Margaret Avenue£595 pcm+Fees**  
This unfurnished mid terraced property is ideally located for local shops and bus links into Birmingham City Centre and Stourbridge. The property features lounge, modern fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c., 2 bedrooms, bathroom with shower over bath. Also benefits from double glazing, gas central heating, rear garden and driveway parking. EPC: C



**QUARRY BANK, New Street£575 pcm+Fees**  
A unique detached bungalow within walking distance of Quarry Bank High Street and a stones throw from Merry Hill Shopping Centre. This 1 bed property features: hallway, lounge with feature fireplace and patio doors leading to garden, double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower. The bungalow also benefits from long driveway, gas central heating and double glazed. EPC: D



**BRIERLEY HILL, Foxdale Drive£550 pcm+Fees**  
A lovely modern back to back property within walking distance of Brierley Hill Town Centre. This property is available unfurnished or on a furnished basis for £595pcm. This 2 bed property features, fitted kitchen with appliances, lounge, shower room, 1 double bedroom and 1 single. Also benefits from one allocated parking space, decking and patio area to front of property. VIEWINGS HIGHLY RECOMMEND TO APPRECIATE THIS PROPERTY. EPC: E



**HALESOWEN, Hawne Court£525 pcm+Fees**  
Located in a quiet, desirable neighbourhood this is well kept ground floor apartment situated at the end of a peaceful cul de sac, offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with washing machine and cooker, 2 double bedrooms, gas central heating, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space with garage. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH, Wycherley Way£525 pcm+Fees**  
A 1st floor apartment in a popular development close to Cradley Heath and Old Hill Train Station, Old Hill shops and bus links. Featuring gas central heating, double glazing, lounge, fitted kitchen with washing machine and fridge freezer, 1 double bedroom and 1 single bedroom, bathroom with shower, parking space. EPC: TBC



**AMBLECOTE, Villa Street £500 pcm+Fees**  
A 1st floor studio apartment in a popular development which can either be furnished or unfurnished. Newly available with open plan lounge/kitchen with modern range of fitted units, breakfast bar & integrated appliances, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with separate shower, 1 designated car parking space to rear of property, communal gardens. EPC: D



**CRADLEY HEATH/OLD HILL, King Street£450 pcm+Fees**  
Located in the heart of Old Hill, ideally situated for local shops, buses and train links is this unfurnished 1st floor modern apartment which comprises of 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with a small fridge and freezer, spacious lounge, double glazing, electric storage heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C



**HALESOWEN, Mount Street£395 pcm+Fees**  
Centrally located and within walking distance to Halesowen Town Centre is this spacious split level flat. Featuring 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen, spacious lounge, bathroom with shower over bath, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking, unfurnished. EPC: TBC



**LYE/STOURBRIDGE, Eagle House£285 pcm+Fees**  
A 1st floor studio apartment in the centre of Lye Town, also close for Lye Train Station. Featuring a combined lounge/bedroom, fitted kitchen with electric cooker, shower room, electric heater, shared laundry room, parking at rear, private communal area with seating. EPC: E

## PROPERTY



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inner hallway, dining kitchen, first floor landing, bedroom one en-suite, two further bedrooms, gardens and two parking spaces.

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It is for sale through Hicks Hadley at £189,950 with no chain.

Having three floors the property has a reception hall, a large ground floor reception/ dining room with access to a garage and downstairs cloakroom. The first floor has a large lounge with panoramic views, a kitchen/breakfast room and a shower room. The second floor comprises of the master bedroom and a further two bedrooms. The property has gas central heating and double glazing and a beautifully tended enclosed rear garden.

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For A Free Quote call 01384 468831 / 07985 575865  
www.eliteplasticsupvc.co.uk

### ROOFING SERVICES

One of the Leading Roofing Companies  
No Job too Small, No Job too Big

- Gutters Cleaned From £15
- Small Repairs From £15
- Pointing Work From £15
- SPECIAL OFFERS on all UPVC Fascias, Gutters, New Roofs/Slate Tile & Felt and Garage Roofs.
- Rubberised flat roofing
- Flat roof specialist
- Insurance work undertaken
- Est 25 years
- Discounted for OAPs
- Exterior Painting



FREE QUOTES AVAILABLE  
Home: 01384 872276  
Mobile: 07584 081228

## Window Specialists

### Full Window Wizard Services Available

- Misted Units Replaced
- Broken Hinges
- Door Adjustment
- New Locks Installed



Call for further details  
0121 421 7001

WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST



- Boiler Services
- Landlord Checks
- Full Central Heating Systems
- Boiler Swaps and Conversions
- Bathroom Installations
- Power Flushing
- Gas Appliance Installations
- All Domestic Plumbing Work



SPREAD THE COST OF YOUR NEW HEATING SYSTEM

0% finance now available!!

Call NOW for our amazing offers!

Visit our new showroom: Unit B 15 Anchor Business Park, Dudley DY2 9AF  
Office open 8am-6pm Monday-Friday 8am-2pm Saturday

01384 560856

info@Gasteksolutions.co.uk www.gasteksolutions.co.uk



WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST WORCESTER BOSCH SPECIALIST

## Upholstery

### JC RE-UPHOLSTERY SERVICES

Specialists in Re-upholstery, Repairs and Antiques  
CONTRACT & DOMESTIC  
No Job Too Small  
FREE ESTIMATES  
Choice of patterns  
Quality Workmanship  
• Blockhead  
0121 561 3977 daytime or 0121 561 2344 evenings after 6 pm

## Property Maintenance

### K S SERVICES

All types of General Repairs to your home and garden  
Also interior and exterior decorating  
Local Friendly Service  
0121 532 4861  
No Job Too Small

# Local Specialists



To advertise your business and reach more than 46,000 potential customers...

1

Call us on...  
01902 319590

2

E-mail us at...  
mark.moore@expressandstar.co.uk

3

Post to...  
Mark Moore, Halesowen Chronicle, Black Country House, Rounds Green Road, Oldbury B69 2DG



## funeral directors

**N.E.DOWNING**  
(Blackheath) Ltd

Independent  
family run  
Funeral Directors  
24 hour service  
Halesowen  
0121 422 2794

www.nedowning.co.uk

## monumental masons

**HALESTONE  
MEMORIALS**  
Modern and traditional memorials

Ring for FREE brochure  
0121 550 4235

Or visit our showroom at  
Somers Road,  
Halesowen B62 8EN  
www.halestonememorials.co.uk

1

## Family

## elderly & disabled

**MOBILITY SCOOTERS** from £350  
can deliver, servicing available.  
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01384  
255019 / 07831 246292.

**RECLINING CHAIR**  
beige, hand remote control, as  
new, unused due to illness,  
stain guard protected,  
paperwork, guarantee and  
receipt. £999 new,  
sell £500 ono.  
01902 893327.

**SHERBORNE ELECTRIC**  
reclining armchair,  
new condition.  
cost £998, sell £450.  
**ROMA MEDICAL**  
4 WHEEL ROLLATOR  
hardly used.  
£40.  
360 DEGREE SWIVEL  
TOP TABLE  
by CareCo, as new.  
£75.  
07714 758269.

**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** reconditioned  
lifts from £799. New available.  
01952 405397/07897 273617

2

## Leisure Time

## car boot sales

**GIANT THURSDAY  
CAR BOOT SALE**  
This Thursday  
and every  
Thursday  
6am - 2pm at

MILL Lane,  
Sarendon W10 7LJ  
Tel: 07831 192 116

**\*BIGGEST SATURDAY  
BOOTSAL\***  
Catering positions available  
A454 Rudge Heath between  
Wolverhampton and Bridgnorth  
By Royal Oak pub island W16 7EE  
07890 267 041

## \*BEST SUNDAY BOOTSAL\*

Now on A34, Cannock, Brocton,  
between Cannock and Stafford  
ST17 0SG

07890 267 041

## \*WEDNESDAY BOOT SALE\*

Now at Ivy House Farm, A461,  
Springhill, Muckley Corner  
Lichfield WS14 0BX

**\*SATURDAY BOOT SALE\***  
Boat Lane, Muckley Corner,  
Lichfield WS14 0BU  
07890 267041

## caravans / motorhomes

A BEAUTIFUL PARK NR LUDLOW  
35x12 caravans from £10,000. Gym  
Par 3 golf, bowls, what for further?  
www.bcpark.co.uk 01584829433

## ATLAS MIRAGE STATIC CARAVAN

Sited near Welshpool, excellent  
condition, large decking,  
peaceful secluded location,  
6-berth, outside lighting, own  
driveway. £11,500 ono.  
07838 579568.

**BAILEY PEGASUS 534**  
2010, excellent condition,  
one owner, 4 berth, fixed bed,  
motor mover, tracker, full  
awning, fully equipped.  
£8,750.  
01902 761684, 07721 186458.

## CROWN REGENT 1999 15ft, 5 berth, inc full awning plus many extras. Excellent condition, ready to go. £2,150 ono. 07725888960

**PRE-OWNED CARAVAN** with  
decking, inc all 2017 site fees, full  
12 month season. Payment options  
available (T&Cs). £10,995. Call  
Paul on 07960 944721 for details.

**SITED NEAR BEWDLEY.** Static  
caravan. On site clubhouse and  
swimming pools. Superb views,  
£15,000. 07717 090817.

## STATIC CARAVAN

35 X 12 with large decking, 2  
bed, 8 berth, on quiet site in Mid  
Wales, 2 fishing pools, 20  
minutes to coast, ground rent  
included for 2017, no age limit,  
dogs welcome. £7,950.  
07555 303350.

**STERLING ELITE EMERALD**  
4 berth touring caravan 2011  
excellent condition, Alde wet  
heating system, end wash  
room, motor movers, awnings,  
loads of extras, phone for list.  
£11,500 ono.  
07896 359696.

## caravans wanted

## WANTED ALL CARAVANS

Any age or condition  
Also motorhomes wanted.  
**TOP PRICES PAID**  
Immediate collection.

**CALL THOMAS**  
07717 280 996  
www.tscaravansandmotorhomes.co.uk

## CARAVAN WANTED

Cash on collect asap.  
Caravan wanted.  
Call me on  
07717 090817.

## TOURING CARAVAN WANTED.

No objection to work, anything  
considered. Please telephone  
07980 365757.

## jumble sales / fetes

**BRIC-A-BRAC FAIR**  
Sunday, 25th June  
Next Sale: 9th July  
KINVER COMMUNITY  
CENTRE,  
DY7 6ER  
10.30am - 4pm  
Tel: 01384 894464

## sports & leisure

## IT'S FREE, IT'S EASY

For items upto £250.  
Online at  
bookanad.  
expressandstar.co.uk

## MAXICLIMBER fitness machine, as new, cost £160, used once, £95. Telephone 07856 626873

## holidays

## self catering holidays

## BURNHAM-ON-SEA

Self Catering Holiday  
Apartments  
Disabled Facilities  
Pet Friendly  
01278 794111  
www.GoSomerset.co.uk

## travel abroad

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
to check with any Advertiser  
that their holiday costs are fully  
covered by a recognised bonding or  
insurance scheme.

## what's on

## antique fairs

## \*ANTIQUE/ COLLECTORS VINTAGE FAIR\*

WOLVERHAMPTON RACE COURSE,  
GORSEBROOK ROAD, WV6 0PE  
SUNDAY 25TH JUNE  
9 AM - 4 PM  
07783 680 627

## markets

## STOURBRIDGE CAR BOOT

At Stourbridge  
Rugby Club  
Open every Wednesday  
from 24th May

07957 399964

3

## Home & Services

## items for sale

## ADVERTISERS ARE REMINDER

That the Business Advertisements (Disclosure) Order of 1977 requires that advertisements must clearly differentiate between Private and Trade.

**VILLAGER WOOD BURNER** good  
condition. £225 ono.  
Must collect.  
01902 563144.

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## items wanted

## A BEST CASH PRICE

FOR ALL RAILWAY  
COLLECTIONS  
Any gauge or age

Hornby/Bachmann/Bowmans/  
Roundhouse/Graham/Farsh/  
any live steam. Also Die Cast,  
Corgi, Dinky, Spot On.

01384 836219/07891 713547  
thetrainmaster67@  
hotmail.com

## For great business results call

01902 319 191

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star



A BEST CASH PRICE PAID  
FOR DIE CAST CARS /  
LORRIES / TOY SOLDIERS  
Air fix, Britains, Corgi, Dinky,  
Spot on, Tri-ang.  
Best prices paid.  
Any condition.  
Collections bought.  
Telephone 01922 327897  
or 07976 691563.

## AUTO MEMORABILIA WANTED

SHELL, ESSO,  
CASTROL ETC  
ALSO  
GARAGE CLEARANCES

Old Enamel Signs,  
Petrol Cans,  
Old Jugs,  
Classic Car Parts,  
Bikes and Motorbikes.

Anything old.  
\*\* TOP PRICES PAID \*\*  
01384 836219/07891 713547

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
to carefully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any of  
their items.

**SPECTRUM GAMES** Wanted, plus  
any old Crash magazines wanted,  
also any Sinclair magazines.  
01902 892918.

**WANTED**  
J40 Pedal car, vintage moped,  
Sinclair C5, harp. Vintage  
vending / slot machines, juke  
box, anything old. Old fire arms.  
01384 484309 or  
07930 949337.

**READERS ARE REMINDED**  
that they may require professional  
advice before entering into  
obligations.

**t.v. / home  
entertainment**

**service**

**AERIAL AND TV SPECIALIST**  
Any TV Repairs, Plasma, LED etc.  
CCTV cameras supplied & fitted.  
Any area. Free Estimates. 7 days.  
Digital aerials, Sky installation, Wall  
mounts / TV setups. 07850 330251.

**specialists at  
your service**

**aerials**

**CHOOSE  
CLASSIFIED**

"I am extremely  
happy with the  
service I get from  
my Express & Star  
Classified Sales  
Representative  
and I would  
recommend them  
to anyone!"  
Michael -  
Portway Fencing.

For great business  
results call  
01902 319 191

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**garden  
services**

**GREENALY LANDSCAPES**  
Fencing Decking Slabbing  
Turfing Block Paving  
Brick Work  
07956 584523 • 0121 550 1712

**GARDENS TIDIED** from £5 per  
garden. 25 years experience. Call  
01902 713106 / 07813 184086.

**For great business  
results call**  
01902 319 191

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**garden  
services**

**CHOOSE  
CLASSIFIED**

"I am very pleased  
with the response  
I get from my  
Classified  
Advertising  
Contract"

Steve -  
AA Digital Aerials

For great business  
results call  
01902 319 191

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**garden  
services**

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Classified Sales  
Representative  
and I would  
recommend them  
to anyone!"  
Michael -  
Portway Fencing.

For great business  
results call  
01902 319 191

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star



**AA DIGITAL  
AERIALS**  
SATELLITE & CCTV  
AERIALS FITTED FROM £75  
Work Guaranteed  
01902 858191  
01384 429166  
01543 439095  
01922 716029  
07833 738857

A AERIAL AND SKY SPECIALIST  
CCTV cameras fitted to wall mount  
free quote/any area. 07850 330251

## alarms/security

## PREMIER ALARMS

Supplied and Fitted £195  
Servicing and Repairs  
12 Months Warranty  
All areas covered  
All quotes beaten!

Call: 0121 601 9791

## building supplies

**DAVIES & SON BUILDERS**  
Over 35 years exp  
All aspects of building work  
Extensions, loft conversions, roofing,  
driveways & landscaping.  
Discounts offered.  
01902 579592 / 07837 994465

## building supplies

**QUALITY DOORS AND HARD-  
WOOD FLOORING** @ low prices.  
Call Arnold Laver 0121 533 5428.

## fencing

**PORTWAY FENCING**  
SPECIAL OFFER  
10 Bays of quality fencing, concrete posts,  
gravel boards. £695  
Heavy duty panels supplied & fitted.  
0121 531 5250 / 07866 137 656  
Mon - Fri 8am - 4.30pm  
Sat 8am - 12noon  
83 Portway Rd, W'bury  
www.portwayfencing.co.uk

## CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am extremely  
happy with the  
service I get from  
my Express & Star  
Classified Sales  
Representative  
and I would  
recommend them  
to anyone!"  
Michael -  
Portway Fencing.

For great business  
results call  
01902 319 191

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**garden  
services**

**CHOOSE  
CLASSIFIED**

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Portway Fencing.

For great business  
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01902 319 191

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by Express & Star

**garden  
services**

**CHOOSE  
CLASSIFIED**

"I am extremely  
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service I get from  
my Express & Star  
Classified Sales  
Representative  
and I would  
recommend them  
to anyone!"  
Michael -  
Portway Fencing.

## gas fitting

**READERS ARE ADVISED**  
To check that anyone  
carrying out any Gas work  
is Gas Safe Registered.  
It is an offence under the Gas  
Safety (Installation and Use)  
Regulations 1998 to carry out  
gas work in the UK without  
being on the Gas Safe Register.

## house clearances

**ABSOLUTELY  
ANYTHING CLEARED  
FULL OR PART, GARAGES  
AND SHEDS RUBBISH  
REMOVED WASTE LICENCE**  
01384 486456 / 07711661135

A ABSOLUTE BEST cash price paid  
for house clearances and bereave-  
ments. Also removals undertaken.  
07852 172641 / 07710 360327

## plastering

**M & S PLASTERING & BUILDING  
Services.** Home/Garden Improve-  
ments.Mark or Sara: 07741 770897

**STEVE'S PLASTERING SERVICE**  
Clean and Reliable. All Work  
Undertaken. All Areas. Call  
0121 567 5919 / 07977 262943.

## removals

**KT HOUSE REMOVALS**  
12 years experience.  
SINGLE ITEMS TO FULL LOADS.  
LOCAL OR DISTANCE. FULLY INSURED.  
Free Quotes - Call Rio on:  
07771 727119

**CALL DEAN NOW:** For all your  
Removal needs. 07429 453209/  
01902 830870 / 01384 904260.

## rubish removal

**LET'S TALK RUBBISH** No Skips  
Needed.Load/Remove any Waste,  
House Clearance. 07969 628382

## skip hire

**MT SKIPS & GRAB HIRE**  
Save \$\$\$  
All skips and all areas covered  
Same day delivery faster than a phone call!  
Open 7 days a week  
07920 88 57 74 or 01384 24 09 56

## 4 Pets & Animals

## equestrian corner

**ALL READERS** are advised to  
check if Horses, Donkeys or Ponies  
have the required Passport infor-  
mation.

## guns & dogs

**NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS**  
Advertisers must ensure that  
they meet all necessary legal  
requirements for owning and using  
guns.

**AIR RIFLE** 22 Carbine, fitted tele-  
scopes, very good condition. £60.  
01902 496856.

**AIRARMS S410 CARBINE**  
1.77 CALIBRE  
10 shot repeater, excellent  
condition, recently serviced,  
includes spare magazine, zero  
option sights, bi-pod, carrying  
case and silencer, regulator  
and whip (no air bottle included)  
£550.  
07976 849325.

## Home Cash Buyer

Sell today, sign today, complete when u wish  
£££ RENT BACK OPTIONS £££  
**Houses / Land Required**

Ring Paul 24/7 Local 07870 341 089

Sandwell area: Call 0121 696 4154  
Walsall & Cannock area: Call 01922 432049  
Wolverhampton: Call 01902 489901  
www.homecashbuyer.co.uk

## FAST CASH FOR YOUR PROPERTY

• Repossessions stopped  
• Houses bought in any condition  
• Legal fees paid  
• Probate Estates Welcome  
• Mortgages / Loans Cleared

**CASH PAID WITHIN DAYS!**

**0800 121 6007**

**OAKWOOD  
HOMEBUYERS**

www.oakwood-homebuyers.com

Friendly, local company here to help you 7 days a week. Est. 10 years.

**Need to sell your  
home fast?**



## CHOOSE CLASSIFIED

"I am really pleased with the response I get from my Classified Advertising!"

Paul Westwood - Home Cash Buyer

For great business results call  
**01902 319 191**

**ClassifiedAds**  
Brought to you by **Express & Star**

# 7

## Jobs

bar staff

**BAR PERSON** required. Experience in cellar work preferred. His negotiable - nights/weekends + holiday cover. References required. Apply Mr C Garratt, Cradley Sports & Social Club, Colley Lane, on 01384 566442 / 836229.

# 8

## Motoring

**cars over £1500**

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your advertisement today? We would respectfully remind advertisers that it is their responsibility to inform the publishers of any mistakes or inaccuracies on the first day of publication.

## ECONOMICAL

**CITROEN GRAND PICASSO**

2009, 63,500 miles, beige, abs, auto, central locking, cruise control, diesel.

**£3,000 ono.**

**07882 394323.**

## GOOD RUNNER

**FIAT PUNTO GRANDE 1.4**

5dr, black, good condition, 09 reg., 58,000 miles, one owner, FSH, MoT till May 2018.  
**£2,300.**  
**07746 297209.**



**FORD FIESTA ZETEC**

1250, 2016, 5dr hatchback, manual, petrol, special metallic red, one owner, 2 years one month of manufacturers warranty, 1,700 miles only, immaculate condition.

**£9,295. o.n.o.**

**07739 267589.**



**FORD GALAXY GHIA**

2008, 98,000 miles, very good condition, blue metallic, abs, electric windows, air bags, air con, fsh, alarm, long MoT, central locking, cruise control, pas.  
**£4,650.**  
**07968 187055.**



**RENAULT KANGOO MOTABILITY**

2003, 54,000 miles, abs, long MoT, central locking, pas, alloys, wheelchair/scooter ramp, condition excellent.

**£1,699.**

**07879 403302.**



**RENAULT SCENIC**

7 seater diesel, 2006, light blue, 90,000 miles, radio/cd, good condition, MoT Autust, all electric, two keys, lady driver,  
**£1,700.**  
**07792 734084.**

## IMMACULATE

**SUZUKI SX4**

2006.

82,000 Miles.

Blue.

Excellent condition.

**£2,600 ono.**

**01384 258781.**

## LOOK

**TOYOTA AGO**

2010, 998cc, Group 1 insurance, lots of MoT, £20 tax per year, excellent condition.

**£1,595**

**07851 213316.**



**TOYOTA AYGO PLATINUM**

2008, 54,218 miles, silver, abs, electric windows, air bag, air con, long MoT, central locking, alloys, CD, black half leather, £20 road tax.

**£1,995.**

**07890 904671.**

## MUST BE SEEN

**TOYOTA YARIS 1.3**

2005, 5dr hatchback. 2 lady owners from new. full MoT, recently serviced. Service history. Immaculate condition.  
**£2,150 ono.**  
**07780 333067.**



**VAUXHALL ADAM JAM**

63 plate, 1.4 petrol, 43k miles, white with black roof, excellent condition, one careful lady owner, fsh, MoT, very good spec including cruise control.  
**£4,995 ono.**  
**07740 418668.**



**VAUXHALL TIGRA EXCLUSIVE 1.4**

Low mileage. Long MoT. Service History. Leather seats. A/C.  
**£2,200 ono.**  
**07407 439768 / 0121 530 9905.**



**VW GOLF**

1996, 115,000 miles, green, long MoT.  
**£850.**  
**01562 829474.**

## cars under £1500

## SUPER BARGAIN

**CHRYSLER PT CRUISER**

**2.4 LUXURY**

2006, four new tyres, full service, clean MoT full MoT, no advisories, black, petrol, 51,000 miles, FSH,

**£1,100, ono.**

**01902 785453.**

## BARGAIN

**FORD FOCUS 1.6**

2003, private reg., good condition and runner, had money spent on it, 8 1/2 months MoT.  
**£525 ono**  
**07900 930908 / 01902 785611.**

## BARGAIN

**FORD FOCUS 1.6LX**

03 reg, MoT January 2018, CL, AC, EW, alloys, parking sensors, in good condition, drives very well.  
**£395**  
**07850 001128.**

**MERCEDES C200K**, auto, Esate, 2002, 87,000 miles, silver metallic, fsh, air con, years MoT, driven from new, £950 ono. 01384 873687.

**NISSAN ALMERA**, 2004, 35,346 miles, silver, abs, air con, fsh, MoT, central locking, one owner, £1,000 ono. 01384 292058.

**NISSAN MICRA MRK1** 2001, 1348cc. Nippy performance and delightful to drive. New MoT. 76k miles.  
**£550**  
**07866 430926 or 01902 845246.**

## DIESEL

**PEUGEOT 407**

Diesel, HDi. Low miles. 06 plate. Silver. Very good condition throughout. Full 12 months MoT.  
**£895.**  
**07962 076385.**



**RENAULT CLIO ELYSEES**

2001, 1400cc, one owner, one year MoT, sunroof, very good condition throughout.  
**£525 ono**  
**07503 784161.**

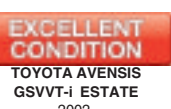


**RENAULT MEGANE CONVERTIBLE**

2005, 82,700 miles, gold, abs, electric windows, electric mirrors, air con, alarm, long MoT, cruise control, diesel.

**£1,450 ono.**

**07958 400177.**



**TOYOTA AVENTIS GSVT-i ESTATE**

2002, Full Toyota Service history. MoT till August, Air con, CD, manual, Very tidy car  
**£345.**  
**07494 571354.**



**VAUXHALL CORSA 1.0**

V reg.,

Good runner.

Short MoT,

£200 ono.

01902 687667

**classic cars**



**MG BGT**

1979, 81890 miles, MoT end of April 2018, offers around, £2,500.

Genuine callers only.

**07891 390052.**

**WANTED, CLASSIC Car.** Private cash buyer. Any condition, anything considered  
**01630 652993 or 07773 462797.**

**commercial vehicles**

**CITROEN BERLINGO VAN**

2007, MoT,

excellent condition,

**£1,495.**

**07831 806052.**

**motorbikes**

## BARGAIN

**PEUGEOT TWEET 125 RS MOTOR SCOOTER**

November 2012.

MoT Nov. 2017.

5,400 miles.

Excellent condition.

Includes top box and chain.  
**£890.**

**Kingswinford 01384 274014.**

**scrap vehicles**

**OUR ADVERTISERS** are reminded that it is an offence under the Scrap Metal Dealers Act 2013 to buy scrap cars/metal for cash.

**ABC AUTO SALVAGE WANTED URGENT**  
Scrap & MoT Failures Best Prices Paid ELV Registered Spares Always Available  
**0121 557 0800 or 0121 557 0400.**  
Oldbury Area.

**vehicles wanted**

**alan reed cars**

Used cars wanted for cash Top prices paid. HP settled. Buyer could call.

**01562 711083 / 07831 245313**

**CROWN MOTORS** guarantee best price for your unwanted cars/vans. 07903 549849, buyer will call.

**PRIVATE BUYER** Requires BMW Series 1 or similar for lady driver. Up to 5 yrs old. Low mileage. Cash waiting. 07850 589620.



**9 Local Information**

**public & legal notices**

**LEGAL / PUBLIC NOTICES**  
For convenience you may fax any advertising requirements to  
**Marie Hogg on 01902 713146**  
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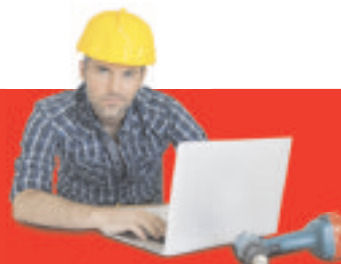


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# All-new Swift has summer finance and loyalty offers

By Sharon Walters

The all-new Swift is now on sale and Suzuki is pleased to announce the availability of its attractive PCP finance offers.

Personal Contract Purchase is an ideal way for customers to take delivery of a new Suzuki with a very low deposit and low monthly payments too.

Suzuki Financial Services is also offering a £500 deposit allowance with 2.9 per cent APR finance on SZ-T and SZ5 two wheel drive models until the end of June.

Taking an SZ-T with 1.0 Boosterjet engine as an example with the £500 deposit allowance on offer, no further deposit is required and payments are then spread over 48 months at £185 per month with an APR of just 2.9 per cent.

Monthly payments can be lowered to £159 per month for the SZ-T if a small deposit of £1,163 is made. As with any PCP agreement, an optional final payment is required to keep the car which for this model is £4,645.

Moving to the top of the range SZ5 1.0-litre Boosterjet 2WD with the £500 deposit allowance, just £1,305 is all that is needed as a customer deposit followed by 48 monthly payments of £179 and an APR of 2.9 per cent. The optional final payment for this model is £5,153.



Good deals but only until the end of June!

For even greater fuel efficiency, the SZ5 2WD with manual transmission is equipped as standard with SHVS (Smart Hybrid Vehicle by Suzuki) as standard. In situations that require higher fuel use, such as when starting from a standstill or accelerating, SHVS helps suppress fuel consumption by providing electric motor assist using electricity generated through regenerative braking. Because the system uses a belt drive rather than a conventional starter motor to restart the engine after an engine stop it allows for a quiet and smooth start.

The six speed automatic transmission equipped SZ5 is also included in the low rate and deposit allowance offers with a customer deposit of £1,543 required followed by 48 monthly payments of £199.

Suzuki has introduced a new and comprehensive Accessories programme to enable customers to fully personalise their new Swift. As an introductory offer Suzuki will contribute £500 towards these to all existing Suzuki car owners. The only stipulation is that customers must have had a Suzuki car in the same household for at least 90 days and the accessories are ordered at point of purchase.

Standard equipment for all Swift models in the range is comprehensive and the SZ3 model with 1.2-litre Dualjet engine and manual transmission includes six airbags, air conditioning, leather steering wheel, DAB radio with Bluetooth and four speakers, rear privacy glass, LED daytime running lights, 15-inch wheels, body coloured door mirrors and front electric windows.

Pricing:

1.2-litre SZ3 Dualjet – manual transmission, £10,999

1.0-litre SZ-T Boosterjet – manual transmission, £12,999

1.0-litre SZ5 Boosterjet SHVS – manual transmission, £14,499

1.0-litre SZ5 Boosterjet – automatic transmission, £15,849

1.2-litre SZ5 SHVS ALLGRIP – manual transmission, £15,499



Suzuki's new Swift is a pretty looker

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA Citigo range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 51.4 (5.5) to 57.7 (4.9); Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9) to 76.4 (3.7); Combined 64.2 (4.4) to 68.9 (4.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the ŠKODA Citigo range are 103 to 96 g/km. Standard EU test figures are for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

The sporty top model of ŠKODA's bestselling range is now even more powerful, dynamic and emotive.

The new top variant, the ŠKODA Octavia vRS 245, is available as a hatchback and a combi. The 2.0 TSI engine produces 245 PS and allows the car to sprint from 0 to 62 mph in 6.6 seconds: 6.7 seconds for the estate. New lighting systems ensure even greater safety.

Thanks to an integrated Wi-Fi hotspot, occupants can be 'always online'. Numerous driver assistance systems improve comfort and safety in the car. The space available remains unsurpassed.

Here is an overview of the most important new features, highlights and information.

● **GENERAL:** The most powerful Octavia in ŠKODA's history. Numerous exterior and interior features and details emphasise the sporty and dynamic focus. Practicality of a family vehicle, dynamics of a sports car.

● **EXTERIOR DESIGN:** The brand's new face with a particularly sporty expression and numerous detailed solutions. Tailor-made dynamic body. Radiator grille's vertical slats and frame in gloss black.

● **INTERIOR DESIGN:** Predominantly black interior with high-quality materials. Alcantara® sports seats with high sides and integrated headrests for safe support. Driver's seat: electrically adjustable, lumbar support, memory function for up to three. Multifunction sports steering wheel with perforated leather and integrated steering



Headlights have been redesigned

wheel paddles, heated version optional. Colour Maxi-Dot display integrated into instrument cluster. LED interior ambient lighting that can be set to one of 10 colours.

● **INTERIOR SPACE:** Typical of ŠKODA: generous dimensions and luxuriously spacious. Rear kneeroom 73 mm, elbow room 1,454 mm in front and 1,449 in rear. Boot capacity (hatchback): 590 l (1,580 l with folded rear seats). Estate: 610 l (1,740 l with folded rear seats).

● **ENGINES:** Fastest and most powerful ŠKODA Octavia ever. Four-cylinder TSI petrol with 245 PS = 15 PS more than the current most powerful variant. Maximum torque of 370 Nm from 1,600 to 4,300 rpm. Choice of 6-speed manual or 7-speed DSG gearbox. From 0 to 62 mph: hatchback 6.6 seconds, Combi 6.7 seconds. Top speed electronically limited to 155 mph. Fuel consumption: 44.1 mpg for 7-speed DSG variant.

● **CHASSIS:** ESC stability system with Sport mode and electronically regulated VAQ limited-slip differential as standard. Allows for particularly dynamic acceleration when exiting bends. Performance Mode Select with Performance Sound Generator function enables individual adjustment of drive, chassis and comfort settings. Optional adaptive Dynamic Chassis Control.

● **LED LIGHTING SYSTEMS:** Redesigned headlights in a crystalline look. As standard: full-LED technology and AFS adaptive front light system. Fog, tail and number plate lights with LED technology and crystalline appearance. Optional integrated cornering function. Brand-typical C-shaped tail lights have the appearance of homogeneous lighting surfaces.

● **DRIVER ASSISTANCE SYSTEMS:** Range far exceeds usual compact level including: Predictive Pedestrian Protection, Blind Spot Detect, Rear Traffic Alert, Adaptive Cruise Control, Lane Assist, Driver Alert fatigue detection, Travel Assist, Manoeuvre Assist, Park Assist 3.0, Hill-Hold Control and High Beam Assist.

● **INFOTAINMENT SYSTEMS:** Four hardware components: Swing (as standard) and Bolero music systems, Amundsen and Columbus navigation infotainment. Special welcome screen. Capacitive touch displays respond to the lightest touch. Displays of Bolero, Amundsen and Columbus infotainment systems.

● **ŠKODA CONNECT:** Mobile online services complement the infotainment. Occupants can be 'always online' using the integrated Wi-Fi hotspot, and the system offers real-time online navigation with alternative routes. Care Connect with auto Emergency Call is activated when a restraint system has been deployed. A breakdown call can be made at the press of a button. Navigation destinations can be transferred to the vehicle online. A list of petrol stations (including prices) along the route can be displayed. Other services, such as the parking spaces, news, and weather services, provide tailored information.





Warwickshire's Chris Woakes at a photocall at Edgbaston



Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes celebrate victory in a one-day international against Bangladesh



Woakes before the Champions Trophy game against Bangladesh



England's Chris Woakes celebrates his dismissal of Mohammad Amir

# This humble all-rounder is realising his potential

## SPORTING MEMORIES

By Matt Maher

**HIS Champions Trophy campaign may have ended just three overs into the tournament, but Great Barr's Chris Woakes is still hoping to make an impact on the game this summer.**

The all-rounder told of his frustration after being ruled out of the one-day tournament – won by Pakistan at the weekend – early in the first game against Bangladesh after suffering a side strain.

He faces a race against time to be fit for the first of this summer's Test matches against South Africa on July 6.

However, the humble 28-year-old is still determined to have a big say.

"Hopefully I can be a part of the majority of it, if not all of it," he said. "There are some really important Test matches to come."

"These are exciting times." According to those who know him best, the all-rounder was stunned almost into silence upon learning he had been bought by the Kolkata Knight Riders in the Indian Premier League auction for a figure just shy of half a million pounds.

### Modest

Compared to the £1.7million spent on England team-mate Ben Stokes by the wonderfully-monikered Rising Pune Supergiants, it appears a rather modest amount.

Not that it bothers Woakes in the slightest, allowing him as it does the opportunity to write the next chapter in a career which has in the past 12 months begun to hit the heights long anticipated.

That Woakes was a cricketer of considerable potential was evident from the moment he broke through the ranks at Warwickshire, topping the county's bowling averages in 2008 at the age of just 19.

International call-ups inevitably followed, first as part of the limited overs set-up and then, in 2013, at Test level.

But as has been the case with so many others who shone in the county game, finding his feet in the international arena took time.

Even as late as this time last year, it remained unclear whether his potential would ever be fulfilled.

***"There are always going to be ups and downs but last summer was an up. I think my game has matured. The more that you are exposed to international cricket, the more you adapt"***

filled. Those questions have now been emphatically answered. "It was a breakthrough year," admits Woakes.

"I'd had a tricky time of it in South Africa during the winter of 2015, when things did not go as well as I would have liked. I got back to Warwickshire and just hit the ground running."

That last sentence belongs firmly in understatement category.

An injury to Stokes opened the door for Woakes and he headed to the second Test from Sri Lanka last May fresh from taking career best figures of 9-36 in a County Championship game with Durham.

Five wickets followed as England romped home to victory. What had proven so tough before suddenly came naturally and Woakes has never looked back.

"It almost snowballed out of control really," he laughs. It's the sort of form you want to bottle and take everywhere with you.

"There are always going to be ups and downs but last summer was an up. I think my game has matured. The more you are exposed to international cricket, the more you adapt."

"There are very few who go into it and boss it from day one. Having those tasters, in and out, was definitely good for me."

"I feel like my game has improved to the stage when I can perform at that level. I am more confident."

dent. I have a belief in myself that I am good enough to do it." That belief was tested in India as Woakes tasted the IPL phenomenon for the first time. Eoin Morgan, England's limited overs captain, provided a useful source of advice.

"I tapped up Eoin Morgan, who has been there for many years," says Woakes. "I think he has done four or five tournaments."

"I asked him what to expect, pick his brains about how to go about it. I think every team, every franchise, does things a little differently."

"It is one of those experiences that until you get out there and put yourself in the pressure environment, you don't know how you are going to handle it."

The success of Twenty20 is threatening to change the shape of cricket forever and everyone has an opinion on the ECB's plans to introduce a similar style tournament to IPL to the English game.

It is, as Warwickshire sporting director Ashley Giles so accurately observed, 'cricket's Brexit'.

You can place Woakes firmly in the 'in favour but with some reservations' camp.

### Concept

"We have seen how well it has worked in India and Australia and it's important we get more faces into the sport," he said.

"More kids playing the game and enjoying cricket. I think it is a great idea and a great concept."

"Although it is not going to happen until 2020, it needs to happen in this country. The game is constantly evolving and you need to keep improving it and making it attractive to the public."

"They don't want to keep paying for the same thing. It is important we don't want to stand still."

"At the same time you don't want to lose the interest in Test cricket and it just to become a T20 sport. The traditions of the game are very important."

Those Test traditions will be firmly in the spotlight later this year when England head to Australia for The Ashes.

The latest instalment of one of sport's greatest rivalries will come after a close to relentless summer which includes a series against South Africa, when Joe Root will make his debut as captain. A series against the West Indies will follow.

## Genting Arena date for Globetrotters tour

THE world famous Harlem Globetrotters bring their spectacular show to the Genting Arena, Birmingham as part of their 2018 world tour.

They will be in Birmingham on Friday, May 18 as they enter their 93rd season of entertaining fans.

Proving once again to be a busy year for the Globetrotters the current 2017 World Tour sees them play in over 250 North American markets and 30 countries worldwide.

Only one year after setting seven official Guinness World Records titles, the Globetrotters broke a single-day total of nine records in 2016, including the longest basketball hook shot, longest basketball shot blindfolded, most basketball three-pointers made by a pair in one minute, and longest blindfolded basketball hook-shot.

During their 2018 World Tour, the famed team will feature a star-studded roster that includes Big Easy Lofton, Ant Atkinson, Hi-Lite Bruton, Thunder Law, Bull Bullard and Cheese Chisholm – plus female stars TNT Lister and Ace Jackson.

Tickets for the Genting Arena date have gone on general sale from from www.theticketfactory.com or by calling 0844 33 88 222.

## Second City slickers have rivals on ropes

BCB Promotions return to Birmingham next month with their five-fight Professional Boxing Dinner Show – Second City Slickers.

Former WBC International Super Bantamweight Champion and English Super Bantamweight king Sean Davis is back in action on the July 22 card.

'Showtime' lost his WBC strap to Gamal Yafai in a hotly-anticipated local derby at the Barclaycard Arena last month.

The 27-year-old Brummie will be looking to finish the season on a high as he looks to go again next term.

Undefeated Birmingham super welterweight Jordan Clayton (6-0) also features. The 23-year-old defeated Nick Golubs last time out on the same show at the Barclaycard Arena.

Having secured an International Challenge belt, Clayton has his eyes on a British strap this time around.

Joining Davis and Clayton are a trio of debutants – all from Birmingham. Super welterweight Ashley Silver, cruiserweight Matt Sen, and heavy-weight Nathan Stevens all feature.

Tickets are £65 VIP to include a two-course meal or £35 standard, unserved seating. Call 07964 984 445.

## Tai thanks fans for support after burglary

WOLVERHAMPTON speedway ace Tai Woffinden has thanked all his fans who have rallied round him and his wife Faye after they were burgled.

The burglary took place at their new home near East Midlands Airport when Woffinden was racing in the Mitas Czech Republic FIM Speedway Grand Prix in Prague. Pregnant Faye was at her parents' home watching on TV. Woffinden estimates £20,000 worth of personal belongings were taken – and it could have been worse. "Personally I think they were disturbed when Faye got home," he said. "It's naturally a horrible time, particularly for Faye when I'm away racing. I was so angry when I was told about it. Thanks to all the fans who have sent messages of support through social media, once again they have proved how special they are."

Woffinden, who won the Elite League with Wolves last year and remains an asset of the Monmore Green outfit, managed to put the raid to the back of his mind as he continued his fine league form.

The day after the burglary – he scored 13 from five races in Worclaw's 51-39 Polish League win over Leszno. Three days later he carded 11+1 from five in the Swedish League as Masarna beat Piraterna 54-36.





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## Tromans in age group run victory

THERE was midweek action for athletes from Dudley Kingswinford Running Club as Helen Tromans took part in the Arrow Valley 12k as part of the Worcestershire Midweek Series placing 56th overall and claiming first place in her age group by finishing in 56.12.

The blue hoops were also able to field two teams in the popular Stafford Showground Relays with clubs having to run 4 x 2 miles over a meandering but rapid course. The Young Guns of Richard Bate in 11.54, Dan Norman in 14.06, Richard Tonks in 12.40 and Simon Blizzard in 12.06 finished in 21st place in a total time of 50.48. The Old Boys of Dave Norman in 11.36, Mark Homer in 12.21, Andrew Weaver in 13.12 and Roger Bedard in 14.16 finished in a time of 51.27 to take 2nd place in their age category.

It appeared that DK runners went out looking for the hardest and hilliest races they could find at the weekend with the tropical temperatures making things doubly difficult.

A large group took part in the Trail (Half) Marathon Wales around the forest tracks and fire roads of Coed-Y-Brenin with Richard Bate claiming the honour of the first hoop home in 1.51.51 in 31st place just out sprinting Andy Sprague who chased him home in 1.52.01 a place behind. Rory Campbell was 123rd in 2.12.44, Sandra Brain was 164th in 2.18.53, Helen Hickman was 214th in 2.25.34, Cindy Froggatt was 215th in the same time, Karen Doy was 219th in 2.25.53, Sue Payton was 234th in 2.27.47, Julie Allen was 295th in 2.34.46, Marie Latreche in 315th in 2.38.08, Lyn Sprague was 323rd in 2.39.25, Kathryn Sneyd was 336th in 2.41.14, Sandra Farnell was 405th in 2.51.11 and Liz Hettle stopped the clock in 3.13.21 to take 511th place.

Twenty four hours later Dave Norman travelled to the Welsh borders to race in the Offas Dyke 15 following the footpath that marks the border between England and Wales covering 2500 feet of climbing over the 15 mile distance coming home in 2.13.09 in 14th place and claiming 3rd in his age group.

## Fair play Glassboys as prize awarded

STOURBRIDGE FC picked up the Evostik NPL Premier Division Fair Play award for boasting the best disciplinary record in the division during 2016/17.

Gary Hackett's men collected no red cards throughout the campaign.

In addition, the Glassboys were named the NPL Community Club of the year at the Northern Premier League AGM.

Meanwhile Hackett has strengthened his attacking options after the departures of Luke Benbow, Chris Lait and Matt Dodd by bringing back two familiar faces, Jordan Murphy and Ryan Rowe as well as Aris Christophorou from Rushall Olympic.

Murphy, 21, was a prolific youth team goalscorer before signing for Walsall. He had successful loan stints with Worcester City and Kidderminster Harriers and signed for Worcester City in August 2016. Rowe, 29, has re-joined for his fourth stint at the War Memorial Ground. He ended last season at Lye.

## Boxer left in a Stew over name change

TIVIDALE'S Ryan 'Stewart' Davies wants fight fans to remember his name ahead of his next ring date at Walsall Town Hall - as he's had to change it!

Davies steps through the ropes for his second boxing contest on Friday, July 7 after impressing on his debut.

He features on Errol Johnson's BCB Promotions' show, titled 'Made in the Black Country.'

He's been registered as 'Stewart Davies', using his middle name as his first name under instructions from the British Boxing Board of Control.

There's already two other Ryan Davies's boxing professionally, the second having to change to an

### Boxing

alias of 'RP Davies' to avoid confusion. That left the Black Country's Davies having to use Stewart.

Davies said: "You can't licence more than one name with the board, I'll try and get it changed again if I can but there might not be much I can do. My dad is happy, it's his first name! Even if I win on the night, the announcer will have to call me Stewart Davies. It's just one of those things."

The 24-year-old made his bow in the welterweight division at Birmingham's the Venue on

April 29, putting down and outpointing Andrej Cepur over four rounds. A short right hand dumped the Lithuanian on the canvas in the second, but Davies had to settle for a 40-35 decision with a 10-8 round for the knockdown.

He's taken a short holiday since then to the Greek island of Kos with partner Charlie, who enjoyed lounging by the pool as he kept up with his runs.

The former kickboxer remains involved in his former calling, too, and still works as an instructor at Oldbury's School of Black Belts.

Tickets are on sale priced at £35 and £60 ring-side, call 0845 111 2900.

# SIDES PITCH IN TO PROGRESS

**CHAIRMAN Richard Evans is satisfied with the all-round progress of Halesowen Cricket Club so far this season.**

The first team pulled through for a fine away win in a nail-biter with Wombourne on Saturday. Halesowen recovered from what seemed like a hopeless situation after a batting collapse to show great character and claim the win.

Evans said: "The firsts are finding a way in difficult circumstances which is the sign of a 'team' staying together and Eddie Rhodes and Dylan Ross-Watt have batted brilliantly in recent weeks, showing determination and a cool head."

"Our results in the lower teams this weekend don't look too clever but broadly the club is in a good place and with around 200 people at the club on Friday nights as part of our revamped Junior section set-up and the new All Stars programme we are immensely proud of what we are trying to do for the game. We have lots of things in place which will give us a sound platform for the club for many years and are well-set."

### Wickets

Against Wombourne, the home team all out for just 172 in 52 overs. A tidy 4-43 from captain Richard Brooker was backed up by Ross-Watt and Masharraf Shazad with two wickets apiece.

Halesowen, without Ed Kilbee, struggled early on against Dale Quiney (4-37) in particular but an 80 stand for the eighth wicket between Ross-Watt (41 not out) and Rhodes (40) eased them near enough to close out the game.

The second team fought out a tense battle with Wolverhampton. Batting first Halesowen were all out for 156 but the very young Halesowen bowling attack led by left arm spinner Tony Bullock (2-32) from 15 tight overs and leg spinner Archie Reeves (2-3) made Wolves fight all the way for victory by just three wickets.

The thirds and the fourths lost their games. Ben Dunn (43) Alex Jordan (34) and the incapacitated Luke Miley (65) were the stars in the 3rd XI total of 217 whilst Raqeeb Khan (5-24) held the 4th XI bowling together in defeat to Tenbury CC.

The first XI entertain Old Elizabethans at Seth Somers Park on Saturday, noon; the seconds are at Walmley, 12.30pm start; Claverley visit the 3rds at Earls High School, 1pm and the fourths make the return trip.

## Cradley claim hard-fought win



Danny Ayres took a comfortable opening victory

CRADLEY'S battling 47-37 win over Kent Kings was marred by a suspected leg break for visiting rider Luke Clifton.

A strong second half and three race wins apiece for leading lights Danny Ayres and Tom Perry smoothed the path to victory. A fall for Kings' top scorer Luke Bowen spelled the end of the night after 14 heats due to the track curfew.

Showman Ayres dived in front of his rivals from gate three and took a comfortable victory in the opener. Heathens gated on a 5-1 but Anders Rowe reeled in Ryan Burton to limit the damage for Kent.

Jack Thomas trapped in heat three with Ben Hopwood sailing around Luke Harris for a Kings 5-1 but parity was restored when Perry passed Nathan Stoneman on lap two of the fourth race.

Harris dived up the inside of Bradley Andrews to secure a 3-3 for Cradley in heat five before Ayres won another shared race in the sixth. Perry followed suit in the seventh with Kent's Andrews getting ahead in heat eight and holding off Burton. Heat nine had only three runners with Heathens taking the lead as Dan Greenwood and Harris earned a first home maximum of the night.

Ayres recovered from being pushed wide by Hopwood to take heat 10. Bowen blasted to another comfortable win but Perry jetted up the inside to go from fourth to second on lap one to ensure another 3-3. Cradley seized control when Burton got to the front and Greenwood's battle with Hopwood for second came to a premature end as the Kent charger packed up.

Eight ahead into heat 13, the hosts were handed a boost when Stoneman was sent back 15 metres. Bowen split Perry and Ayres but the result was all but sealed by the heat advantage. Thomas's flying start gave the visitors hope of a consolation point but that was dashed by Bowen's fall.

## Mixed bag for club's swimmers

A DIFFICULT campaign ended in the disappointment of relegation from the Nuneaton Junior League for Halesowen swimmers.

Sixth place in the final gala at Stafford confirmed the fate, coming hot on the heels of a creditable third place finish in the second round of the Mercian League at Oak Park, Walsall.

At Stafford there were strong swims, but event wins were at a premium. There were a couple of dominant swims; Grace Guy in the nine and under girls 25m backstroke and Jacob Bailey in the 12 and under boys 50m backstroke both won comfortably, while Caleb Darby won a thrilling blanket finish in the 10 and under boys 25m butterfly. Final scores: Boldmere A 247, Stafford Apex 199, Lichfield 171, Northgate 159, Hinckley 146 and Halesowen 138.

In the Mercian League there were fine swims with winners in each age group; in the 10 and under boys Caleb Darby won the 25m butterfly and 50m freestyle; in the 12 and under boys Greg Sheppard won the 100m breaststroke and Adam Ryan won the 100m backstroke. They were joined by Noah Taylor and Oscar Jones to win the medley relay.

The 12 and under girls team of Libby Hickman, Erin O'Grady, Eleanor Stark and Jemima Vaughan-Hawkins won their freestyle relay. James Gaskin won the 14 and under boys 100m backstroke and was joined by Sam Bailey, Dermot Cameron and Oliver Bradley-Wood to win both the freestyle and medley relays.

In the open age group Emily Jay and Zachariah Collins won their 100m individual medley and 100m butterfly races, Emma Osborne won the 100m freestyle and were joined by Paige Robbins and Ellie Meller to win freestyle relay.

Final scores were Leamington Spa 246, Bilston 244, Halesowen 204, Orion 160 and Perry Beeches 125.

## Chess club summer tournament starts

WITH chess season at an end, Stourbridge Chess Club has started on its program of summer activities which enable members to stay in form and prospective members to come along and try their hand.

Stourbridge Chess Club's summer tournament has started. In the first round of a Swiss tournament all the games followed form except for the game between second team player Chris Cox and the club's best player Nic Fallowfield. Cox played a great game against Fallowfield and had a better pawn structure in a rook and six pawns endgame when he accepted a draw.

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